FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CEREMONIES COMMEMORATE SIMON BOLIVAR ANNIVERSARY

UN, OAS Secretaries Arrive

PA231615 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1510 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Caracas, 23 Jul (DPA) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, from Peru, and OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila, from Argentina, arrived in Caracas last night. They are in the Venezuelan capital as special guests for the ceremony commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, the Liberator. The main ceremony will take place tomorrow, 24 July, which is Bolivar's birthday.

Netherlands Antilles Delegation

PA230308 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Domenico Martina, minister president of the Netherlands Antilles, is already in Caracas. He arrived this afternoon at Maiquetia Airport, where he received military honors, to attend the bicentennial celebration of Simon Bolivar's birthday. Martina is accompanied by Finance Minister (Irmer Coca), Foreign Minister (Eric Geimoner), and other government officials.

Manifesto Signed

PA240303 Paris AFP in Spanish 0006 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Caracas, 23 Jul (AFP) -- The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela today signed in Caracas a "Manifesto to the Peoples of America" in which they express their firm support of the Contadora Group that is seeking peace for Central America. [Paris AFP in Spanish at 0037 GMT 24 Jul states that the King of Spain also signed the manifesto]

Faith in unity, democracy, defense of human rights, the need for a political alliance and economic integration, and the rejection of all kinds of colonialism were the keynotes of the 5,000-word text.

Presidents Hernan Siles Zuazo of Bolivia, Belisario Betancur of Colombia, Osvaldo Hurtado of Ecuador, Fernando Belaunde Terry of Peru, Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela, and Panamian Vice President Jorge Illueca signed the document.

The signing ceremony took place a few hours before the start, on Sunday, 24 July, of the solemn commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth in Caracas of Simon Bolivar, liberator and father of the country.

The Bolivarian Manifesto stated the topics of greatest interest to the American peoples:

Central America

The manifesto proclaimed its support for the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela) as a positive and genuinely regional effort to overcome the threat of war in Central America.

The Bolivarian presidents, in expressing their support, stated that in Central America "the implantation of democratic regimes is an essential factor for reestablishing peace. This is possible only through the free expression of the people's will, exercised through elections."

They also called for "overcoming social and economic problems, which have created a situation of social injustice that has an important effect on the violence rampant throughout the area."

Democracy

Commenting on democracy throughout the territory liberated by Simon Bolivar, the manifesto stated that "the systematic holding of elections is the only means to evaluate the legitimacy of the exercise of power."

Human Rights

The manifesto proclaimed that "the Liberator's mission will not be completed while there are still political systems on our continent that trample on men's freedom, dignity, and basic human rights.

Latin American Solidarity

According to the manifesto, the coincidence of origins and destinies should lead to an active solidarity in the face of dangers and threats arising from the worldwide crisis, the unjust international order, the "anachronistic colonialist foravs," and tension-breeding conflicts.

Economic Dependence

Economic and technological dependence were labeled a new form of domination. Foreign investment must not be an additional instrument of profit at the expense of underdeveloped countries.

In view of the underdeveloped countries' staggering foreign debt, debtor countries should draft a common strategy, in the same manner that the international banking systems plan their policies.

According to the manifesto, the situation has been aggravated by the deterioration of trade conditions and the transfer to southern countries of the industrialized north's inflation.

The manifesto reaffirmed the advisability of having development bring social benefits for everyone, together with political and economic goals.

Integration

The presidents stressed that they conceive Andean integration as a first stage toward the integration of all Latin America. They reaffirmed their faith in the Cartagena Agreement "despite the difficulties if has encountered within and abroad."

Final Declaration

The Bolivarian presidents' manifesto concluded by rejecting the policy of blocs practiced by the great powers and the arms buildup. They stressed the need for "Latin America to be free of all traces of colonialism."

The manifesto called for a new international political and economic order. It expressed their desire for unity with all Third World countries, and stressed Latin American solidarity to face common challenges.

Colombian President's Address

PA240105 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2036 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Speech by Colombian President Belisario Betancur at commemoration of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth; at National Congress Building in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpt] The great Caribbean Basin does not have to be the scene of a planetary dispute that is depriving us of our voice and soul. The order for which the peoples of the area are struggling must be respected at all cost, and they must give it to themselves.

The storm presently raging on the Central American horizon brings the helmsman of the liberating undertaking back into the picture. His navigation charts projected us beyond hemispheric geography. They placed us in the context of what the planet was at the time; they pointed out the nature of the big powers' game and the goal of their designs, and warned about the dangers embodied in their proclivity to raise themselves to the status of models of a new center of the universe.

Today we do not represent babbling states, but mature, sovereign nations. We have no need for the game of decision-making centers, nor for their power balance schemes. On the contrary, we wish to reassert the Bolivarian aspiration of the Panama Congress, which sought a definition of our rights independent of the world ostracism of [words indistinct]. We wish to speak our own language, to make our own diagnosis, and invoke our own values in regard to the Central American and Caribbean crisis.

As president of Colombia, which together with Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama, makes up the Contadora Group, I must say that our mission is to rescue the Bolivarian spirit with regard to the designing of a subregional order that will guarantee the self-determination of peoples, nonintervention, and peaceful solution of disputes. [applause]

We have learned from Bolivar that the world is broader than the hemisphere and that in this broad world our nations have a right to an unrenounceable space of their own. Insofar as our continent is concerned, we are and must be individuals, not passive objects of the master guidelines of international policy. These guidelines must be based not on the arrogance of the most powerful, of the most advanced, and of the richest, but on the legal equality of all states.

Let us return to Bolivar's idea. Force is not government. A subregional order could be temporarily created through force, but such force would not create a stable government, because all our peoples would rise to recover their dignity. Our soul is not for hire or on sale. It is our own and only our own.

Peruvian President Speaks

PA240340 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Speech by Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry at commemoration of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth; at National Congress Building in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpt] We have spoken about an Andean peso. Of course, we would not dream of proposing that we suppress our national coins. That Andean peso will be a Bolivarian peso, because our inter-regional trade, as we all know, is meager and adds up to some $500 million.

We would require the issue of 100 million Andean pesos to multiply it five times and thus cover this trade. We think that the implementation of an Andean peso as a reference coin would mean, above all, joint action in the delicate subject of (?integration) which cannot be subject to the whims of one country. It must be supported by a group of nations, such as the ones which comprise the Andean Group.

The Andean peso simply requires our joint support, and it can be used as a unit of measure. Its details are a technical matter, be it a basket of goods, an average minimum salary, or a basket of goods in comparison to the IMF's exchange basket. That is a secondary matter. The important thing is to reach an agreement, so that these five nations finally have a common coin that expresses their economic strength, the truth of their unity -- not like now, when they are using foreign references, proving a certain negative dependence.

In our transactions among Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, we always have to seek the support or the cover of a hard, foreign coin. Why not think about creating, on a Bolivarian basis, our own Andean coin?

Lastly, due to the lack of time, I want to say that if we do not remove obstacles to free transit, our integration will never become a reality. We must end passports -- first among Andean countries, and then among all Latim American nations. What is the object of placing obstacles to confront good men, when the bad ones always manage to cross the borders? It is necessary to make it easy so that our youths can travel and our businessmen can buy tickets to neighboring nations as if they were going to provinces in their own countries. This, of course, does not imply we will forget about immigration laws, which are obviously in effect for legal and labor reasons. They cannot be eliminated with the stroke of a pen.

These are the ideas I wanted to bring you today, because I knew that others' eloquent words would be better than my own, and my mission was not to compete with the eminent Bolivarian statesmen. I simply wanted to contribute my professional experience so that we might step up this integration process. I have full faith in it, despite being a survivor of the presidential meeting of 1967, when we established deadlines that unfortunately were not met and will not be met. This was because we became lost in details, we saw the trees, but not the forest.

We have discussed this or that tariff, this or that spare part for the automotive industry; we have discussed whether a carburator should be manufactured in Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, or Venezuela. But we still have yet to seriously discuss free transit, a common coin, transport on our rivers and highways, and energy interconnections -- primarily, energy interconnections, by which, through the high tension wires, energy will be carried over Andes and across our borders in a straight path.

Siles Suazo Address

PA240430 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2122 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Speech by Bolivian President Hernan Siles Suazo at commemoration of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth; at the National Congress Building in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpts] Being deeply committeed to and immersed in the historical process, we Bolivians cannot but demand a new Bolivarian crusade at such dramatic times as we are experiencing. This call must hark back to the roots of our republican origin and culminate with the consolidation of our sovereignty in face of the permanent advance of the subjugators who divide, stand against each other, and impoverish our peoples.

Despite the praiseworthy efforts of some patriots [words indistinct] our times, it is a well-known fact that efforts toward economic integration of at least a portion of the Latin American homeland have not attained the stated goals. The aspiration of political integration is illusionary and unthinkable to the extent that transnational interests systematically conspire to prevent the strengthening of Latin America toward real independence.

In the face of independence, it is indispensable to adopt a policy to integrate and join efforts at the regional level in order to improve our capacity for negotiations through joint action.

After 150 years, we return to the path Bolivar charted for our people. The poverty and hunger afflicting the Latin American masses are a pathetic accusation not only against imperialism, but against small-town prejudices, local pettiness, and the selfish policies of the oligarchies, disguised as national interests, which have turned the objectives of American emancipation into simple enunciations, at the very time when the threat of domination from the neocolonialists is expanding in conjunction with their scientific knowledge, technology, financial power, and military strength.

Those who thought that the subcontinent was safe from military aggression stumbled not long ago into the bitter reality that its rights had been violated. Those who, turning their back on the sovereignty of peoples and the cry for democratic unity of nations, suppose that the threat to the autonomy of a state, no matter how small, does not compromise the sovereignty of other peoples, neither understand our constant historical stands nor realize the magnitude of the challenge posed to us by this [word indistinct].

Today, more than ever, political and economic developments on our continent concern all of us, and we must not ignore or dismiss their significance. We cannot remain indifferent to the Latin American drama of the Malvinas, to the danger of war looming over the Nicaraguan or Salvadoran peoples, in the north, the middle, and south of our America, without denying ourselves or risking our very existence and sovereignty, and without betraying the legacy of those who forged our republican history.

However, we need the active, profound, and combative solidarity of those who gave us a homeland. We need to [word indistinct] once more awareness about Latin American unity, which resounds in the clamor of our peoples, about the dispersion that impoverishes us and the [words indistinct] that destroy us.

This is the proper occasion to reassert, as our best tribute to the Liberator, our determination to lay the groundwork for a great confederation of Latin American states. This is the feeling of the people I represent, among whom the Latin Americanist spirit of the strugglers for independence in the Peruvian highlands and Bolivar's permanent liberating presence, remain alive.

Regarding something that I must unavoidably tell every Bolivian, I must hav [word indistinct] the patience of those present here to reiterate that the Bolivian sea, the sea that bathes the captive beaches of the former Charcas coastline -- that a vexed America cannot keep observing for more than 100 years an unjustly landlocked country without direct contact with the rest of the world, exploited through an ill-named free transit that does not allow it to trade, to enjoy full sovereignty, or to share the huge wealth of the sea, which is a common heritage of humankind.

Panamanian Vice President Speaks

PA240440 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2134 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Speech by Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca at commemoration of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth; at National Congress Building in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpts] We must return to the proposals of [words indistinct], Felipe Herrera, Santamaria, and Price, so that Latin Americans can have their own institutions without affecting the actions of other regional organizations, such as the OAS. The OAS is a forum where Latin American countries can understand themselves and establish a just relationship and cooperation with the United States, and it plays a role similar to that of the EEC and the Organization for African Unity.

We must have our own organizations and plenipotentiary council, our courts, our instruments for cooperation.

Bolivar had already started to define this, and I believe that the most genuine expression of this Bolivarian ideal is represented by an organization that has its headquarters here in Caracas -- SELA. This is an economic system in which all the Latin American states participate -- from the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Its role is one of coordination, harmony, and strengthening of our negotiating capacity. It is necessary that we become aware that we have our own instruments and have to carry out our own systems of economic security, as well as physical and political security.

There is also another Bolivarian realization -- it is the unity of efforts comprised in the Contadora Group. It is the presidents of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama. Contadora has a Bolivarian significance; it is inspired by the same ideal that Bolivar sought when he convoked the Panama Congress. And we have to create organizations, groups that serve us as contact points against common dangers, faithful interpreters of public [word indistinct], and reconcilers of our differences.

Contadora, as has been proved by Presidents Herrera Campins, Betancur, De la Madrid, and De la Espriella, advocates a dialogue. Contadora is saying: Stop the use of force, stop the bloodshed, stop military pressures by land, sea, or air, and come to the negotiations table. Why? Because the Latin Americans cannot remain indifferent to the blood being shed in the South Atlantic, in Argentine territory. We want negotiations, we want peaceful solutions, we want conciliation, we want peace. We do not want solutions of force and solutions that obey foreign interests, which are alien to the Latin American interests.

Bolivarian Declaration Issued

PA241603 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1435 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jul (DPA) -- On the occasion of the commemoration of the bicentennial of Liberator Simon Bolivar's birth, the heads of state of the six Bolivarian countries and Spanish King Juan Carlos have issued a declaration that emphasizes the "renewed contact" between America and Spain, amid the warmth of the Bolivarian festivities. The text of the declaration reads:

"The presence of the Bolivarian countries' heads of state and of the king of Spain on such a memorable date is evidence of the deep and incomparable symbolic significance of the historic renewed contact between eternal Spain -- which extended its domains to the New World, leaving imperishable traces of its faith, culture, and of the existence of the mestizo blood and race -- and the American countries, which, through the genius and sword of Simon Bolivar, gained the light of independence and liberty.

"This historic date is being commemorated at a happy time, when democracy prevails as a political system in the Bolivarian countries and in Spain, a fact that serves as in indissoluble bond between its peoples, who are staunch fighters for liberty and who strive to give testimony of their commitment to peace and social justice, as responsible members of the international community.

"The Liberator's work for liberty, peace, democracy, and justice transcends the fatherland where he was born, which he liberated, and the fatherland of his forefathers, whose noble and generous vitality bore fruit in the lands of America.

"The historic heritage and moral example of the Liberator continue to serve as a guide to the world. Hence the decision of UNESCO to grant the "Simon Bolivar Award" to King Juan Carlos I and to South African patriot Nelson Mandela, the first as a source of inspiration for the installation and development of democracy in Spain, and the second as the purest example of a combative spirit in facing the evil of racism, with the sacrifice and martyrdom of his struggle in South Africa.

"The renewed contact between America and Spain at this moment in history, united in their tribute to Liberator Simon Bolivar and in their consistent loyalty to their common spiritual and cultural ties, augurs very well for the commemoration in 1992 of the fifth centennial of the arrival of the ships guided by the great Admiral Christopher Colombus and the beginning of a new era of humanity on a continent where, despite difficulties, the best possible conditions for understanding, solidarity, and peace among men prevail.

"The occasion was deemed proper for exalting the values of the social and cultural mestizo traits in Latin America, and for reaffirming our will and commitment to contribute, united and in common accord, to the growth and consolidation of the bonds of fraternity and cooperation among all Spanish-speaking nations and communities throughout the world.

"The Bolivarian countries' heads of state and King Juan Carlos I solemnly reiterate the will of their nations to pursue and intensify their efforts in favor of world peace, the new order and international social justice, solidarity among the peoples, democracy and liberty, as the most valuable and undying tribute to Simon Bolivar."

This declaration is signed by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, King Juan Carlos of Spain, Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea, Preuvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, and Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca, representing the president of Panama.

Juan Carlos Remarks Noted

PA242219 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1723 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Caracas, 24 Jul (EFE) -- King Juan Carlos of Spain affirmed today in Caracas that the work of Simon Bolivar is historical in a speech delivered during the ceremony held at the national mausoleum containing the remains of the Liberator.

The Spanish monarch laid a floral wreath before Bolivar's tomb after attending, together with the Bolivarian presidents and personalities gathered for the bicentennial of the Liberator, a Te Deum offered by Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrum.

"When the work of a man transcends 2 centuries, we can state that it is definitively historical, and the work of Bolivar is, in fact, historical," he stated. The King, consistently paraphrasing Bolivar's line of thinking, referred to the unity of the peoples as the great teaching of the Liberator and the great task that current generations face.

He noted that this unity must be based on three levels: the cultural level, which is the foundation of the others, and in which Spains sees itself as an integral part of the Latin American community of nations because it is a part of their past and will be part of their future.

However, he indicated that it is necessary to project unity at the economic level as well. "Only economic unity can offer the guarantee of success and secure the rights of the Latin American peoples," he said.

According to the monarch, the third level, political unity, will constitute the base of one of the political structures which will be called upon to become a great protagonist of the universal future.

King Juan Carlos said that the best tribute to the Liberator on this second centennial of his birth is to apply and enforce these principles, which are the universal principles of the rights of humankind.

Hurtado Rejects U.S. Fleet

PA241848 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1748 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jul (EFE) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado declared in Caracas today that the presence of the U.S. naval fleet near Nicaragua "is a factor that only renders the situation in Central America more tense and makes a solution more difficult."

At a breakfast with a group of newsmen, Hurtado broached the important role played by the Contadora Group in the search for peace in the Central American region.

To the Ecuadorean president, the U.S. fleet represents not only "the obvious presence" of a country that is involved in the Central American issue, but of "one of the powers seeking to establish hegemony in that region."

The fleet also serves, he said, "as the first indication that the establishment of this hegemony might be dominated by elements of a warlike or military nature, the very thing that the Latin American countries, particularly the Contadora Group, are trying to neutralize or avert."

In Oswaldo Hurtado's opinion, the U.S. decision to send warships to the Central American coasts might provoke "an escalation of the conflict" as a result of which the action being promoted by the group composed of Colombia, Panama, Mexico, and Venezuela (Contadora) becomes vital.

For the Ecuadorean head of state, the Contadora Group is "one of the most notable integrationist political phenomena of the last few years" and deserves support from all of Latin America.

Further Hurtado Comments

PA250302 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2259 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Caracas, 24 Jul (DPA) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea has expressed his opposition to a joint renegotiation of the Latin American countries' external debt. During a conversation held with a group of newsmen at the Caracas Hilton hotel where he is staying, Hurtado Larrea voiced his opposition to a renegotiation on the grounds that "it doesn't make sense."

Commenting on Central America's current situation, the president mentioned the Contadora Group's peace efforts and said that "that effort is one of the most remarkable integrationist phenomena in recent years." Along the same line, he reported that he would propose here in Caracas to the two other Bolivarian presidents who do not belong to the group (Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador itself) a statement expressly supporting those efforts.

Later, he said that the economic crisis hitting "our countries" will not be overcome unilaterally and that "on the contrary, we must reach an agreement on some basic points of such a crisis." The Ecuadorean president indicated that "the problem of the establishment of tariff barriers that hamper international trade must be faced. Multilateral efforts, so often disregarded in recent years, especially regarding relations with the United States, must be strengthened."

He added that "it is possible to prepare a basic plan to begin the debt's renegotiation without having to organize a 'debtors' club.'" He stressed that "every country has its own peculiarities in matters of debt. There are, no doubt, countries with a very small debt for whom the difficulties other nations of the continent are facing would not exist. There are certain parameters common to the countries, but to enter into a joint renegotiation of the external debt would be almost a utopia...it doesn't make sense."

Hurtado Larrea pointed out: "The crisis of the Latin American economy is the most serious problem for the region's stability and for the survival of its basically democratic institutions." Later on he expressed fears that the Central American problem might extend to the rest of the continent, with different characteristics. "By different characgeristics I mean that the guerrilla phenomenon does not necessarily have to occur in other Latin American countries; instead, there could be disorder of public finances and the economy. This is what might destroy the democratic institutions."

Finally, Hurtado Larrea discussed Latin American integration by saying that "while we are facing difficulties, a historic, essential step has been taken in terms of relations on the continent as compared to some 10 or 20 years ago. I do not want to be pessimistic. We no doubt have difficulties, but a presidents' meeting such as this did not take place a long time ago. This is truly a historic date."

Leaders Respond to Castro Reply

PA250342 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Report by Jose Prado, Radio Havana's special correspondent in Caracas, Venezuela -- recorded]

[Text] From Caracas, Venezuela, this is Jose Prado, Radio Havana Cuba's special correspondent at the ceremonies commemorating Liberator Simon Bolivar's bicenntennial.

The Contadora Group peace efforts and the support they have received from Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, received preferential attention from the majority of guests invited to Simon Bolivar's bicentennial celebrations.

Concerning the Cuban president's letter to the Contadora Group, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said: It is a message of cooperation with the Contadora Group efforts, and I welcome it with great interest, as it is a positive factor. I am concerned about the Central American situation, as it requires a rapid solution, he added.

For Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Fideal Castro's letter to the Contadora Group countries is a document that all Latin American peoples agree with, especially in its desire to defend peace. From what I have heard about the letter, Siles Zuazo added, it defends Nicaragua's sovereignty, and I think all Latin American countries agree with this, especially with its determination to defend peace in the face of attempts and threats of invasion by imperialist forces. In another part of his statement, the Bolivian president said that after 150 years, we have again taken the path that Bolivar wanted for our peoples, whose poverty and hunger pathetically accuse not only imperialism, but also parochial prejudice and local problems.

Meanwhile, Colombian President Belisario Betancur told newsmen in Caracas that Fidel Castro's letter is a very constructive and creative document which calls for mediation. The Colombian president emphasized that Fidel Castro's opinion of the Central American situation is a realistic and encouraging contribution to finding a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. He added that in this crisis, Latin American countries want to speak their own language, to give their own diagnosis, and to bring their own values to the surface. They want to reaffirm the Bolivian spirit of the Panama City Congress, and to define their rights independently of the world strategy.

Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins also termed Fidel Castro's reply positive, and said he was not surprised with the attitude assumed by the Cuban president. Herrera Campins also said that the Bolivarian meesage of permanent struggle for liberty is still current, as achieving this privilege has been one of man's objectives throughout history. Within this framework, he added, is the struggle for a new international order, love for a developing world, and hope of peoples who want to be treated justly and to experience the benefits of international solidarity.

Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, after terming Fidel Castro's reply to the Contadora Group proposals intelligent and sensible, said that the United States should be made to adopt a sensible attitude. He added that so far, in response to the desire of Latin American countries for peace, the United States has replied with further escalation, with the announcement of the sending of a war fleet to blockade Nicaragua.

Former Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen -- also in Caracas to attend the ceremonies commemorating Simon Bolivar's bicentennial -- said that Fidel Castro's reply in support of the Contadora Group efforts is very intelligent and compatible with the Contadora Group formula.

Finally, former Venezuelan president and presidential candidate Rafael Caldera said that Cuban President Fidel Castro replied to the Contadora Group presidents in very positive terms.

These opinions from top Latin American political leaders -- who are in Caracas participating in celebrations for Simon Bolivar's bicentennial -- were prominently reported in Caracas newspapers.

SOUTH AFRICAN ENVOY DENIES SUPPORT FOR UK

PY220059 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1620 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jul (DYN) -- South African Ambassador to Argentina David Toteill denied that his country has provided the United Kingdom logistic support for the construction of a strategic military airfield in the Malvinas.

He called the installation in Cape Town of a consortium to build the airport as merely a commercial and civil activity" without the participation of the South African Government.

The diplomat indicated that "the report published by some press media is unfounded because the South African Government was not consulted by the British Government before or after the contract for the project was signed." He added that his government "had no participation in the commercial arrangements for the airfield construction, and the use of Cape Town by the consortium is considered by the South African Government as a merely commercial and civil activity and it is not the practice of the South African Government to interfere in any way in commercial activities of this nature."

Toteill also said that "the policy of neutrality regarding the Argentine and British conflict over the Malvinas, which was officially announced by the South African minister of foreign affairs and information on 8 April 1982, is fully in force."

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH CAPE VERDE

PY222316 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2338 GMT 20 Jul 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (TELAM) -- The Executive Branch has approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cape Verde and it has up-graded the Argentine diplomatic representation in Munoch to general consulate.

Decree No 1807 approves the declaration signed in New York by the foreign ministers of the two countries. It calls for the strengthening of friendly ties with the people and government of the Republic of Cape Verde. The declaration notes that the Argentine diplomatic representation in Cape Verde will promote trade between the two countries, which have complementary economies. The decree establishes an Argentine Embassy in Cape Berde.

Moreover, Decree No 1808 up-grades the Argentine consulate in Munich to general consulate, which will keep its jurisdiction over Bavaria. Through this decree, the Argentine general consulate in Frankfurt ceases to have administrative jurisdiction over the Argentine consulate in Munich.

AMNESTY DECREED FOR RIO NEGRO OFFICIALS

PY221851 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0058 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Viedma, Rio Negro, 21 Jul (DYN) -- Rio Negro's Governor Carlos San Juan decreed tonight a "far-reaching and general" amnesty for all common and political wrongdoings incurred by those holding elective positions in the jurisdiction of Rio Negro Province as of 25 May 1973. Former Rio Negro Governor Mario Franco profits from this measure.

The amnesty, in force through Law 1706, bears the signatures of Governor San Juan, Rio Negro Interior Minister Alfredo Carbajal, and the approval of the Interior Ministry. The law was sanctioned and promulgated on 20 July 1983.

POPULAR SOCIALISTS GRANTED STATUS IN BUENOS AIRES

PY221457 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0215 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] La Plata, 20 Jul (TELAM) -- The Buenos Aires Province Electoral Board has granted legal status to the Buenos Aires Popular Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Popular Boanerense] for this electoral district, according to the party's proxies, Dr Julio Ghione and Dr Gustavo Calland.

It has been reported that this party will nominate a list of candidates to run in the forthcoming elections throughout Buenos Aires Province. It has been recalled that the party has proposed Dr Guillermo Estevez Boero to run for president, while Dr Alicia Moreau de Justo will be heading the party slate for the Buenos Aires City electoral college seats.

BRIEFS

NEW BELGIAN AMBASSADOR -- Buenos Aires, 11 Jul (DYN) -- The Argentine Government has approved the appointment of Maurice Seynave as the new Belgian ambassador to Argentina. He is replacing George Tilkins. [Summary] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2148 GMT 11 Jul 83 PY]

AIR AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE -- Buenos Aires, 13 Jul (TELAM) -- The Argentine and French Governments have signed an air transport agreement by which the French will fly to Argentina through a point in Portugal or Spain, Casablanca, Dakar, Recife, Salvador de Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Mendoza, and Chile. Argentina will fly to French territory through Rio de Janeiro, Natal, Recife, Dakar, Madrid, Paris, London, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, and Stockholm. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2102 GMT 13 Jul 83 PY]

LABOR MINISTER PRONOUNCES STRIKE 'A FAILURE'

PY221854 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2355 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 21 Jul (EFE) -- The national protest against the government's economic policy, which was called by leftist labor unions, "was a failure," according to Labor Minister Murilo Macedo in a statement he made tonight.

During the protest, Minister Macedo issued a decree intervening the Bank Workers Union and the Subway Workers Union, both of Sao Paulo, for their attempt at halting labor activities. With these two new unions intervened, there are now five Brazilian unions in this situation.

The labor minister said that participation in the strike had been "insignificant" throughout the country, except in Sao Paulo where participation was larger, as expected.

Minister Macedo estimated that 60 percent of the working force of Sao Paulo reported to work on schedule, and that the percentage went up to 80 about noontime when the subway's operation returned to normal.

- 20 Imprisoned, 300 Arrested

PY221820 Paris AFP in Spanish 1611 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] In the aftermath of the strike which was called to protest the government's economic policy, 20 persons have been imprisoned. Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi Ackel has announced this in Brasilia.

During the strike yesterday, the police made 300 arrests. Imprisoned strikers will be arrainged in civil courts on charges of violating the law which regulates the right to strike, the minister added.

Minister Ackel explained that the government will not resort to the National Security Law whereby cases of disorderly conduct which imperil public order can be prosecuted by military courts. Thus, the imprisoned strikers may be set free after posting bail.

BUSINESSMEN FAVOR BELTRAO TO SUCCEED FIGUEIREDO

PY231924 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Jul 83 p 3

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo (O GLOBO) -- Welfare and Social Security Minister Helio Beltrao is the candidate favored by the Brazilian executives and businessmen to succeed President Joso Figueiredo, according to a survey made by the EXAME magazine which was published in issue 281, set for release today.

The survey was performed from 15 June to 18 July through a questionnaire called "panel of executives." This is a nationwide survey on trends in the economy, corporate performance, and general matters. EXAME has been carrying out such surveys every 6 months for the past 8 years, polling businessmen and executives of a wide range of corporations. This survey shows Beltrao scoring 21.3 percent, followed by Olavo Setubal, 15.6 percent, and Aureliano Chaves, 9.8 percent.

TRADE TALKS ON USSR, GDR, FRANCE, IRAN NOTED

PY210124 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 83 p 26

[Text] The day before yesterday in Moscow Carlos Viacava, director of the Foreign Trade Department [CACEX], ended the first round of negotiations for the sale of beef, chicken meat and soybean meal to the Soviet Union. According to Viacava's advisors in Rio yesterday, the Soviet Union has no set deadline to answer the Brazilian proposal.

According to Mauricio Souza Assis, acting CACEX director, the Soviet Union takes its time making decisions regarding foreign trade since its economy is a centralized one. As a consequence, it carries out strict studies regarding various apspects such as the quality of the product, for example, in order to reduce risks to the minimum.

Mauricio Assis also explained that during the past 2 years Brazil's trade with the Soviet Union has been quite successful since it has managed to sell products through two private enterprises and INTERBRAS [Petrobras International Trade, Inc.]. From his point of view, this is a victory because normally the Soviet Union only operates with multinational enterprises due to the fact that agreements with these enterprises are more expeditious.

The negotiations carried out with the Soviet Union during the first 3 days of this week, according to Mauricio Assis, do not foresee future agreements for the exchange of merchandise ("barter" system) even regarding Soviet oil for soybean meal and beef. All agreements will be based on normal procedures and a strong currency for the two countries.

Carlos Viavaca's advisors also disclosed that yesterday in Berlin, GDR, he examined with local authorities the implementation of bilateral agreements which were already discussed last December and which are aimed at increasing trade exchange between the two countries. This subject was discussed during a luncheon which was also attended by technical experts from CACEX and from the Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC). On this occasion it was disclosed that trade exchange between Brazil and the GDR up to July 1983 experienced a sizeable increase of 35 percent.

According to his advisors, Viavaca will be in Paris today where he will meet with authorities of the Credit Lyonnais and the Banque Nationale de Paris for the purpose of setting the financial bases for his trip to Iran next Monday. In Teheran Viavaca will carry out negotiations for the purchase of Iranian oil which will be paid back with nontraditional Brazilian products, thus opening the prospects for trade exchange between the two countries.

BRIEFS

NEW FUNAI PRESIDENT NAMED -- Economis Octavio Ferreira Lima has been designated by the Interior Ministry as the new president of Funai [National Indian Foundation]. He will replace Colonel Paulo Leal. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Jul 83 p 1 PY]

MINING COMPLEX IN SOMALIA -- Belo Horizonte -- The Andrada Gutierrez Construction Company reported yesterday that it is closing a contract with Somalia for $300 million (170,637,000,000 cruzeiros) for the construction of a uranium mining complex. The contract, according to the Gutierrez enterprise, will be of the "turn-key" [given in English] type, that is, construction of the entire complex, supply of equipment, and handing over the complex in operation. [Excerpt] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Jul 83 p 18 PY]

BEAGLE PACT ACCEPTED, WAITING FOR ARGENTINA

PY220411 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] "Chile has accepted" the papal peace proposal on the Beagle Channel territorial dispute with Argentina, the chief of the Chilean delegation to the Vatican said yesterday, pointing out that his country is now awaiting a similar move from Argentina in order to reactivate negotiations.

Colonel Ernesto Videla said in a telephone interview from Rome broadcast on Radio America, that "We, Chileans did everything the Pope requested" and added that he believed that the reactivation of talks "does not depend on us" anymore.

Pope John Paul II drew up a peace proposal and asked the two countries to answer whether they accepted it, and Chile answered 'yes' although it (the proposal) did not entirely satisfy Chile's aspirations," the colonel said.

On the question of whether he did not believe the current Argentine Government -- with less than 100 days from general elections -- had little decision power on the issue, Videla emphasized that "it was with this (Argentine) government that we requested mediation, so that, in my opinion, it is it which is entitled to reach an accord."

LABOR LEADER SEGUEL TO PROPOSE NEW PROTESTS

PY221829 Paris AFP in Spanish 1918 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 21 Jul (AFP) -- Chilean labor leader Rodolfo Sequel today announced in Santiago that there will be new protest demonstrations against the government of General Augusto Pinochet, aimed at crystallizing a national consensus for the reestablishment of democracy in Chile. Seguel said is he in favor of a fourth day of national protest but did not mention any particular date, because the decision will have to be made by the National Workers Command [CNT].

I will propose to the CNT that we protest again, not only because it is legitimate that we express our discontent, but because we have the right to strike, Seguel said during his first press conference after he was released from prison.

I do not want to topple anyone nor do the workers, he noted, as he stated the unions' demand for the reestablishment of democracy and freedom after a national consensus has been attained.

Seguel disapproved the contacts between labor leaders and the military government while he was in prison, because the authorities had deceived the workers, who had acted in good faith.

Referring to the first national protest days called for any union leaders, and the last one called for by politicians, Seguel said that the workers had to open the eyes of the people and politicians. Now it is up to the political parties to assume their role in society, he added. We all have to go back to take our proper place in society. We do not accept that there should be leaders banished because they are Communists, nor because they are Christian Democrats, nor do we accept those who talk with the government, because they are as manageable as a hinge.

CODELCO MAKES FINAL DECISION ON DISMISSED MINERS

PY231719 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Santiago, 22 Jul (EFE) -- State-run CODELCO [Copper Corporation -- Chile], which manages copper mines in Chile, today made a final decision on employees who were dismissed in the wake of the recent strikes. CODELCO rehired 1,157 miners, cancelled 488 contracts with severance pay for service time, and cancelled 145 contracts with no severance pay. Among the latter group there are 31 labor leaders.

CODELCO's first measure against the miners who went on strike at the El Teniente, El Salvador and Andina mines on 15 and 16 June was to dismiss 1,790.

The CTC [Copper Workers Confederation] headed by Rodolfo Sequel announced that the affected confederation leaders would take CODELCO to court. Answering that announcement in the communique made public today, CODELCO said that it "will abide by the court's decision and will act in accordance with the laws."

POLICE BREAK UP DEMONSTRATION, MAKE ARRESTS

PY230237 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Santiago, 22 Jul (EFE) -- Today 10 people were arrested during a peaceful demonstration carried out by approximately 100 women carrying signs alluding to arrested and missing persons in Chile. The demonstrators gathered in silence on one of the downtown streets carrying signs with pictures of their missing relatives.

The demonstrators then moved toward the Archbishop Vicariate of Solidarity but were intercepted by police, who broke up the demonstration, destroying the signs and making several arrests.

The Association of Arrested and Missing Relatives reported that this organization submitted a habeas corpus on behalf of nine women and one man.

GOVERNMENT BANISHES NINE MORE PERSONS

PY222249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0359 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 21 Jul (EFE) -- The Chilean Government has banished to northern and southern regions of the country nine more persons, who were arrested in their homes by National Intelligence Center police agents.

According to what the Catholic Church's Vicariate of Solidarity reported today, these persons were banished yesterday while six other persons were banished previously. The persons involved had been under house arrest for 5 to 10 days; however, now they have been banished for 3 months.

The Vicariate of Solidarity has identified the banished persons as: Jorge Leopoldo Valdes, technician; Manuel Pizarro Torres, businessman; Pedro Almagro Valdivia Pizarro, university student; Luis Matus San Martin, builder; Oscar Gustavo Concha Silanas, graphics worker; Raul Vergara Carcamo, student; Francisco Hidalgo Astorga, student; Roberto Araos Garnica, worker; and Ivan Benjamin Maluenda Loyola.

CATHOLIC PUBLICATION DECRIES COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

PY221148 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] Santiago, 20 Jul (EFE) -- Today the Santiago magazine ANALISIS said in an editorial that from the start of the current regime "the communications media has played a decisive role as supporters and accomplices of all the hate and pain unleashed on the people during the last 10 years."

In an article signed by its director Juan Pablo Cardenas, the magazine -- sponsored by the Academy of Christian Humanities of the Catholic Church -- adds that "all the crimes, disappearances, tortures, embezzlements, and hunger are based on fantasies and on a submissive journalism involved with plunder, accusations, bribes, and mediocrity.

The magazine says that "while La Moneda Palace was still covered with smoke, and the blood of the martyred president had not yet stopped spreading, television and the first editions of the press in uniform began spreading the lies and slander of horror which would then take over Chile and its people.

ANALISIS, in one of the most direct and harsh criticisms of the Chilean press, says that "due to its systematic and conscious concealment of the truth, businessmen and professionals of the communications media will soon have to testify before the country for being responsible for so many lies and hesitations."

The magazine says that "it is shameful for the national conscience that there are still organizations and journalists who prefer to give in to censorship or to self-censorship instead of fulfulling their mission. Those who act in this manner should separate themselves from the college of journalists and surrender their titles, honors, and prizes before they are uncovered as cowards or mercenaries."

By emphasizing the Catholic Church's position as one of the few institutions outside the official tutelage, the publication conveys its gratitude to Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez, named "the pastor of human rights."

HAVANA REPORTS HONDURAN EMBASSY SHOOTING

FL222030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] The building housing the offices of the Honduran Embassy in Santiago, Chile, was shot at by unknown persons, the diplomatic mission reported. The attack accurred shortly before the arrival of a high-level government mission that went to Chile to inform the regime of Honduras' position in the Central American crisis.

The shots broke a window and damaged interior walls of the buiding where the Honduran Embassy is located, in the eastern part of Santiago, Chile. Honduran Ambassador to Chile Cesar Augusto Coello, said that he regretted the occurrence. He added cynically that Honduras has always sought peace, despite being attacked by other nations, especially by Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

NEW JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR -- The Chilean Government has approved the appointment of Sameh El-Farah as new Jordanian ambassador to Santiago. [Summary] [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 9 Jul 83 p 8 PY]

TRADE BALANCE SURPLUS -- Yesterday Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, president of the Central Bank, disclosed that the Chilean trade balace for the first 6 months showed a surplus of $679,400,000 Since exports during that period amounted to $2,005,500,000 while imports only amounted to $1,326,100,000. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Jul 83 p A1, A12 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER CONCERNED OVER U.S. MANEUVERS

PA221730 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1614 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Bogota, 22 Jul (DPA) -- Colombia Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has voiced Colombia's concern over the possible effects of the naval maneuvers that U.S. forces are staging off Nicaragua's coasts. He said that the Contadora Group's peace efforts cannot produce results without cooperation from the Cuban and U.S. Governments.

Lloreda Caicedo said that the deployment of U.S. naval units and the constant flow of Cuban weapons to Nicaragua are indications of a military escalation in the area. He noted that the Contadora Group's efforts cannot produce results without effective political support from the Cuban and U.S. Governments. He said that a specific sign of this support would be an immediate withdrawal of the military advisers that these nations have in Central America.

The Colombian foreign minister also expressed support for Cuba's return to the OAS, saying that this would make a solution to the Caribbean crisis easier to find. He warned that if quick corrective measures are not applied soon, the situation "might lead to a widespread conflict."

As for Colombia's disagreement with Venezuela over surface and subsurface marine areas, Lloreda Caicedo said that, rather than waste energy and time, it is better to wait for a change of administrations in Venezuela before attempting a new dialogue.

EXCHANGE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH VENEZUELA

PA231821 Paris AFP in Spanish 1712 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Bogota, 23 Jul (AFP) -- Colombia and Venezuela have reached an "exchange agreement" that will permit the reestablishment of bilateral trade, which the Venezuelan Government suspended earlier this year because of the devaluation of its currency, official sources in Bogota have announced. The agreement, which lifts the restrictions imposed on Venezuelan imports from the Andrean nations and which will go into effect on Monday, will be signed in Caracas today by the presidents of Venezuela's Central Bank and Colombia's Bank of the Republic.

The terms of the agreement define a specific exchange rate, thus eliminating the four kinds of conversion of the bolivar that are currently in effect in Venezuela. It has been learned that the exchange rate will come close to that which is in effect for banking operations, that is, between 8 and 10 bolivars per dollar.

9,000 TROOPS TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN GUERRILLA AREA

PA231941 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Puerto Berrio, Middle Magdalena Area, Colombia -- Military spokesmen for the 14th Brigade, which is headquartered here, announced today that a total of 9,000 troops will be charged with maintaining vigilance and public order in the most agitated part of this area. In recent years, guerrilla and clandestine groups have taken control of this part of the nation's territory.

The troops stationed there will have modern weapons and communications equipment that will enable them to discover any attempt to seize or enter villages, both in northeast Antioquia and in a large area covering the departments of Santander, Boyaca, and parts of Calda, where both the (?guerrillas) and the MAS [Death to Kidnappers] have perpetrated genocidal actions on a daily basis, causing some of the residents to flee the region and to head for other places where they might find peace and work without the terror created by the subversives.

M-19 LEADER ON BATEMAN'S DEATH, TRUCE PROPOSAL

PA221847 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jul 83 pp 1a, 9a

[Interview with 19 April Movement (M-19) leader Alvaro Fayad by Dario Restrepo Velez, director of the television "Evening News" program; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Why did you wait so long to announce Jaime Bateman Cayon's death?

Answer: For a simple reason: We had the moral, human, and political responsiblity to our organization, our people, and our Latin American friends to leave no section of jungle and no possibility untouched in our investigations and search.

Question: What will happen to the M-19 now?

Answer: We are numbered in the high command in accordance with our degree of responsibility, from No 1 on down. Jaime Bateman Cayon was No 1, Ivan Marino was No 2, etc. That high command remains as it as was when Jaime Bateman was leading the organization.

Question: Has Ivan Marino Ospina taken over the post of commander that Jaime Bateman occupied?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Are you perhaps proposing a peace formula to President Betancur through this interview?

Answer: Look, we want to tell Belisario today, as we did 6 months ago, that we are prepared to go anywhere with anyone and to do anything necessary to remove the obstacles on the path to peace. What is the minimum that we ask? We seek an effective halt to operations by both sides. It is not that the Army must withdraw or that it must abandon territory; we ask only that it stop its offensive actions.

Question: And then what happens?

Answer: Then representatives of the government, the armed forces, the Church, unions, and the guerrilla movements sit down to talk about specific and immediate, even urgent, solutions. Let us start, let us find a path to dialogue. We hope that Belisario will not refuse to engage in dialogue. After all, peace begins in one's own home. The Contadora Group can do something in the Central American region. I think that peace begins in one's own home and that he should propose and implement in Colombia that which he is proposing in Central America. We are not saying this because of weakness or arrogance.

Question: Must that dialogue necessarily include the Colombian president's physical presence?

Answer: He is the head of government; he has enough prestige, for he is also the chief of the armed forces.

FOREIGN MINISTER: U.S. FLEET 'DISTURBING'

PA221952 Paris AFP in Spanish 1916 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Quito, 22 Jul (AFP) -- The dispatch of a U.S. naval and air fleet to Central America "is disturbing because it is an unforeseen development that could create very grave situations and could even endanger world peace," Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Luis Valencia declared in Quito. "In this respect, Ecuador wants to express its concern and to reiterate its support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts," he added. Valencia noted that the Central America situation is a focus of world tension, more so now with the latest developments; he added that the presence of eight U.S. warships in the area could cause the existing problem there to become even worse. Four days ago, in a seminar on the Inter-American system sponsored by the OAS, Valencia warned that his country "rejects any motion for a military solution in Central America." On that occasion, he maintained that the unity of Latin American and Caribbean nations was imperative and that solidarity should be established on matters of importance, such as the issue of Central America. He reiterated his country's support for the Contadora Group and stressed the need for all parties in conflict to negotiate a political solution and to show respect for the principles of nonintervention and self-determination.

DEFENSE, OTHER MINISTERS MAY PRESENT RESIGNATIONS

PA242016 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Division General Jorge Maldonado Mino, retired, who is the minister of National Defense, will present his resignation on 28 July, it has been learned unofficially. He will submit his resignation to the president of the republic following the promotion ceremony of Division General Jorge Arciniegas Salazar, who is now commander in chief of the Army and who may be Maldonado's successor. Though the reasons for the minister's resignation are not known, insistent rumors of his resignation had been circulating for the past few days. It was also learned that Dr Juan Cordero Iniguez, currently governor of the province of Azuay, will be the new public education minister. This would confirm Government House spokesman Ernesto Alban Gomez' report on the imminence of a minor cabinet crisis. Cordero will replace Dr Claudio Malo Gonzalez, who will resign in order to be a candidate to congress for the People's Democracy party. Other officials who will reportedly resign are Carlos Vallejo Lopez, Agricultural and Livestock Minister, and Vladimir Serrano, secretary of the administration.

CEPE MANAGER ON DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL OIL POLICY

PA240210 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] The oil market has began to stabilize and, hopefully, this positive trend will permit a $1 increase in the price of crude oil in December, Raul Jaramillo, CEPE [Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation] manager, said on his return from Helsinki, where he attended an OPEC meeting. In addition, he denied that CEPE has been selling oil at unfavorable prices, thus countering Liberal Party Director Blasco Rena Herrera's allegation that CEPE is giving away $80,000 a day to long-term purchasers by selling oil at prices lower than those on the international market. Jaramillo said that, after going through a very critical period, the oil market has begun to stabilize and that, hopefully, this tendency will continue, permitting even a $0.50 or $1 increase in the price of oil until December. On another subject, Jaramillo said it was necessary and urgent to import 115,000 barrels of gasoline from Mexico.

[Begin recording] [Jaramillo] Look, our main job is to supply the country with the necessary fuel. When activities at the refinery were paralyzed, I immediately ordered those imports as I had no way of knowing how long the paralysis of activities at the refinery would last. Our main responsibility is to guarantee the country's supply. This is the first notice I have, but I am glad to hear that activities have normalized.

[Unidentified reporter] However, doesn't this mean that the import of this product was not necessary?

[Jaramillo] Look, we import some 17,000 to 18,000 barrels of diesel fuel a year. So, supposedly, if it had to be imported now, we will suspend imports in the next 15 days or the next month or two. [end recording]

RIGHTIST PARTIES FORM RECONSTRUCTION FRONT

PA250029 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0108 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Quito, 23 Jul (EFE) -- Five of the 17 legally recognized political parties in Ecuador formally joined today to form a National Reconstruction Front [Frente de Reconstruction Nacional] in preparation for the January 1984 general elections.

The Social Christian, Liberal, Conservative, Revolutionary Nationalist [PNR] Parties, and the Democratic Institutionalist Coalition [CID] will jointly support Social Christian legislator Leon Febres in his bid for the presidential candidacy. Four of these parties, with the exception of the Liberal, obtained less than 5 percent of the votes in the last regional government elections in 1980 and are in danger of being removed from the legal register if they do not surpass that percentage in the next elections. The five parties are members of the rightist opposition sector, and among their major leaders and founders are former Presidents Carlos Julio Arosemena (PNR) and Otto Arosemena (CID), both of whom currently are legislators. It has been announced that presidential candidate Leon Febres will be formally nominated at the end of this month.

SWEDISH EMBASSY IN QUITO OCCUPIED 20 JUL

PA210349 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 83

[Text] Amid utmost secrecy on the part of government and diplomatic officials, a peaceful occupation of the Swedish Embassy has been underway since early this morning. The embassy is located on the second flood of Las Camaras Building, in the capital's northern section, between Amazonas and Republica Avenues.

It has been learned from building guards, that someone arrived at the Swedish Embassy at approximately 0900 this morning and proceeded peacefully to occupy its premises. The trespasser is presumably a Colombian citizen who, upon seeing that his papers were not being processed, decided to take over the embassy to demand that the paperwork be expedited.

Both the Colombian ambassador to our country and Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez told Ecuador Radio they had no knowledge of the details of this incident, which is presently being handled through the proper diplomatic channels. There is also absolute secrecy at the Swedish Embassy and its doors are closed, despite the fact that the situation at the Las Camaras building is perfectly peaceful. The embassy secretary said only that she is not authorized to disclose any information.

HAVANA CITES REBEL ACTIVITY REPORTED IN LIMA

PA230311 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Several explosions and armed clashes were reported in Lima, Peru, following the destruction of several high voltage towers and a power outage that last 45 minutes. The incident caused the mobilization of police units. EL CORREO, a newspaper published in Lima, reported that the police deactivated more than 25 bombs that had been placed in several private enterprises.

Yesterday's power outage affected the capital city. The attack is blamed on Shining Path, a clandestine armed group. Other dispatches, datelined Lima, also blame Shining Path for the burning of the offices of Electroperu enterprise, located 50 meters from the Ayacucho city jail.

WORKERS CLASH WITH POLICE, STRIKE SUSPENDED

PY231426 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Amid riots and clashes with the police, Siderperu [Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprise] workers called off an indefinite walkout which they had staged several days ago.

The Ancash Departmental Workers Federation has also called off the 48-hour stoppage that it had started on 20 July. The police had to use nightsticks and tear gas bombs to calm down the rash rebels, many of whom were arrested. No injuries were reported, sources said. The demonstrators were demanding the immediate release of some 40 workers that the police had detained during the first day of the strike. From unofficial sources it has been learned that Siderperu personnel called off the strike because they feared that they would not collect their salaries and the bonus paid for a national holiday.

SHINING PATH KILLS 10 IN CANGALLO PROVINCE

PY231916 Paris AFP in Spanish 0241 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Ayacucho, 22 Jul (AFP) -- Shining Path guerrillas today executed 10 peasants in the Cangallo Province, south of Ayacucho, in the southeastern region of Peru. The information was provided by reliable sources but it has not yet been confirmed by the Political-Military Command of the Emergency Zone.

In another development, Shining Path commandoes occupied for a short time two high schools in Ayacucho and departed after lecturing teachers and students on the armed struggle they are engaged in.

Pamphlets are being widely distributed in Ayacucho calling for a general strike on 25-26 July to protest government policies and support the armed struggle. The leaflets are signed by the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist Communist Party of Peru, which is the official name of the Shining Path organization. The police have stepped up patrols throughout the city to prevent any guerrilla action.

Three policemen were wounded last night during an attack on the Ayacucho electric plant. One of the policemen was taken to Lima today to be hospitalized.

HAVANA NOTES 10 CHARGED AS SHINING PATH MEMBERS

PA241740 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] General Clemente Noel Moral, the political-military chief of Ayacucho, has accused 10 people of being leaders of the Shining Path group. He presented his charges to the district attorney. Noel Moral claims that these individuals are responsible for the death of more than 300 people as well as for staging subversive operations. The Lima newspaper EL OBSERVADOR reports that this list of 10 allegedly includes some of the most important Shining Path leaders, such as Abimael Guzman and Julio Cesar (Mezzich e Izaguirre), his assistant; Efrain Morote, dean of the Ayacucho Law School; Victor Diaz Leon, rector of the University of Huamanga; and Judge Mario Calcavanti. The newspaper says that no one can believe such nonsense, particularly the claim that these people have killed 300 people. This has caused confusion in Ayacucho because the residents think that this might be an excuse for persecuting the civilian population. Members of the parliament in Lima have also been skeptical about this absurd claim. Senator Enrique (Bernal) made a statement to this effect. He said that it is inconceivable that Gen Noel Moral should have accused these people of being Shining Path members. The senator said that, nevertheless, the Attorney General's Office must proceed within the law and with a strong hand to stop the wave of abuses that is currently taking place.

TORTURE, MURDER CHARGES AGAINST AYACUCHO POLICE

PA241438 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Peruvian Deputy Javier Diez Canseco charged in Lima that police and troops tortured eight people and later buried them alive in Ayacucho Department. This accusation is just a part of the charges of murder, kidnapping, and other crimes filed against General Clemente Noel Moral, the political and military commander charged with putting down the armed groups that operate in the region.

Diez Canseco explained that, on 5 April, police and Army forces occupied the town of Totos and arrested three people who, after being tortured, were buried alive at a place called (Toldorumi). Five other people faced the same fate some days later. A case is also recounted in the writ of charges involving two peasant women who were arrested in (Carhuilloco), whose captors tortured them and then cut off their breasts and severed their jugulars.

It was also reported in Lima that the council of ministers held a long meeting at which the chief topic of discussion was the dynamite attacks that produced power outages in Lima and in many neighboring towns on Thursday night. At the end of the meeting, the cabinet reiterated the government's decision to increase its clampdown on the armed groups that have been operating in the country for 3 years.

ECONOMY MINISTER LEAVES FOR PARIS CLUB MEETING

PY212039 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor left today for France where he will tackle negotiations for the rescheduling of our foreign debt with the Paris Club. Before departing, Minister Pastor expressed regrets over the decision of APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] and the United Left not to participate in the Peruvian delegation to that meeting, because the nation's interests will be at stake there.

NICARAGUAN MINISTERS MEET WITH PRESIDENT

PA221921 Paris AFP in Spanish 1827 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jul (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Ambassador Mauricio Cuadra reported today that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Planning Minister Henry Ruiz met with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid yesterday. The two ranking officials' visit, which coincided with that of Richard Stone, the U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, began last night and ended at 1100 today when D'Escoto and Ruiz returned home aboard a private plane.

Mexico has not yet officially confirmed the Nicaraguan ministers' visit or their meeting with the president or any other official. Cuadra only said that the visit had been planned and that it is related to the Contadora Group's efforts.

NICARAGUAN ENVOY SCORES U.S. MANEUVERS

FL222118 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2000 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaraguan Ambassador Mauricio Cuadra today classified as inopportune the sending of U.S. troops to his country, [as received] now that an atmosphere of dialogue has been achieved, thanks to the support of the Contadora Group. The diplomat said that the Nicaraguan Government is looking for dialogue and not confrontation as a show of flexibility, so that nations desiring the pacification of Central America can avoid having to continue to deal with false excuses. He said that Nicaraguans are prepared to defend themselves because they are suffering aggression. Nevertheless, Nicaragua does not want war with any nation.

Although he repeated that his government is prepared for an open dialogue with the United States, Mauricio Cuadra said that Nicaragua would not accept -- and views with disgust -- the sending of U.S. troops to a region that already has too many problems. Nevertheless, he gave assurances that the Sandinist government would continue its policy of dialogue in all international forums. We are ready to talk with the United States about whatever matters they want, so long as our sovereignty and self-determination are respected. Finally, the diplomat discarded the possibility of breaking relations with the United States because he believes that that would be unsuitable and it would place obstacles in the way of peace negotiations.

EL DIA ON SANDINIST ANNIVERSARY, U.S. POLICY

PA220413 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 20 Jul 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States Is Part of America, but America Does Not Belong to the United States"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan people have celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Sandinist revolution in the midst of the most menacing conditions since the 19 June [as published] 1979 triumph, and this assertion is made with awareness that Nicaragua has celebrated each of its anniversaries while struggling against adversity. An alert international conscience cannot fail to recognize the seriousness of the speech that U.S. President Ronald Reagan delivered 2 days ago, nor can it deny the importance of the negotiations of four Latin American countries that have decided to unite to prevent further intervention.

To explain President Reagan's openly hegemonistic and bellicose attitude, we would have to look at some subjective and objective concepts. Among the first we could mention -- despite the risks of political psychology -- is that, as a result of a lack of expectations because of someone's advanced age, the path the holocaust is being selected, without a thought to the sacrifice involved for others.

Among the objective elements that explain President Reagan's speech, we can mention the reactivation of the U.S. economy, which is based on a huge military budget that must be spent in order to continue fulfilling its function of stimulating the economy. We could also mention a reelection campaign that utilizes the imperial dream as a way to promote national sentiment in favor of an expansionist policy. In this regard, there is a consistency in Henry Kissinger's appointment to head a bipartisan commission on Central America. Kissinger is a conservative with a lot of experience in toppling and destabilizing Latin American regimes; it is enough to remember the operation carried out in the southern cone approximately 10 years ago.

In the middle of this ominous panorama. we must point out that Nicaragua is a country prepared for its military defense, and it has given proof, recognized even by its detractors, of the great unity that exists among its people. It also has friends in the area, and all the political and diplomatic strength of Latin America has rallied around it, headed by the Contadora Group, with a firm resolve to defend the principle of self-determination.

No one can ignore the financial coercion applied against many Latin American countries, but the fact is that despite these measures all the diplomatic doors have been closed to the United States for justifying or concealing an aggression against Nicaragua, even if it used another country's forces. These realities show that the Monroe outlook is behind us, and that today Latin America only recognize one definite fact: The United States is part of America, but America does not belong to the United States.

A number of political forces in the world have joined this line of international solidarity, among them Willy Brandt, president of Socialist International, whose words have become relevant. It is desirable and even necessary that all those political forces be not only alert but active so that, for the good of all the peoples of America -- among which the U.S. people hold an important position -- one of the greatest follies in history can be prevented.

DPRK OFFICIAL VOICES SUPPORT OF CONTADORA GROUP

PA241628 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jul (EFE) -- DPRK Vice Premier Kim Kyong-yon said here that his country's government "fully" supports the efforts of the Contadora Group to find peace in Central America. In a statement to newsmen, Kim Kyong-yon criticized the Reagan administration "because it talks of peace, but creates tension in Central America with the presence of an air-naval fleet."

The Asian diplomat arrived in Mexico at the head of a North Korean parliamentary delegation that will meet there with its Mexican counterparts. The North Korean official stressed that the Contadora Group's effort can prevent Central America from becoming what Vietnam was in Asia. The Contadora Group was created in January on the Panamanian island of Contadora following a meeting of the foreign ministers of Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezulea. Mexico, which maintains embassy-level diplomatic relations with South Korea, established similar ties with the DPRK in 1980.

HAVANA REPORTS PEACE MARCH PLANNED 29 JULY

PA250114 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] The Mexican Movement for Peace [Mompaz] has announced that on Friday Mexican political parties, popular organizations, and political labor unions will hold a march in Mexico City to support peaceful solutions in Central America and the Contadora Group efforts. MOMPAZ also reported that among the groups participating in the march are the official government party, PRI, and the opposing United Socialist Party of Mexico and the Popular Socialist Party.

NAVY DETAINS TWO U.S. FISHING BOATS 22 JULY

PA231816 Paris AFP in Spanish 1327 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jul (AFP) -- Yesterday the Mexican Navy stopped two U.S. fishing boats that, according to reports, were fishing in Mexican waters without the necessary authorization. The tuna boat LAURIE ANN was stopped near Asuncion Bay in the Pacfic Ocean, while the fishing boat MEDLIN SHRIMP was stopped near the port of Tampico, in the Gulf of Mexico. According to Mexican authorities, the two boats were fishing in Mexican waters, and as a result, all of the tuna, other fish, and shrimp found in their holds, as well as their fishing gear and nets, have been confiscated.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH JAMAICA ISSUED 22 JULY

FL222049 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1930 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Jamaica have expressed concern over the growing danger of a generalization of the conflicts in Central America. In a joint communique issued today at the conclusion of the visit of Jamaican Foreign Minister Hugh L. Shearer, the two sides pointed out the urgency of hastening the establishment of peaceful conditions in the area by means of a dialogue and political harmony between the sides directly involved in the conflicts. The Jamaican foreign minister and his Mexican counerpart, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, also discussed the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, which was signed in Jamaica by the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. They agreed that said treaty cannot be applied selectively, which is why it is not possible to apply the law and forget the obligations. Likewise, the communique expresses without reservations the support of the 12 Caribbean Community countries for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group. Shearer stressed the need for Mexico and Jamaica to continue strengthening their economic relations.

Hugh L. Shearer departed this morning after a 2-day visit to Mexico, during which he met with President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, and Secretaries of Finance and Public Credit, Jesus Silva Herzog, of Foreign Relations, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, and of Energy and Mines, Francisco Labastida Ochoa.

PEMEX ANNOUNCED $6 BILLION FOREIGN SALES IN 1982

FL221956 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1845 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- The state enterprise Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) earned more than 916 billion pesos (some $6 billion) from foreign sales in 1982, it was announced here. Pemex noted in a document that this amount represents 85 percent of all sales, and 15 percent -- 163 billion pesos (more than $1 billion) -- was sold domestically. Likewise, the document indicates that Pemex showed a profit of 673 billion pesos ($4 billion) during 1982, which is higher than that reported in 1981. This reflects a productivity of 62 percent in income and an 80 percent rentability for the enterprise. The cost of sales in 1982 amounted to 278 billion pesos ($1.8 billion) and represents 26 percent of the income, the document states in closing.

STONE MEETS DE LA ESPRIELLA, PRESENTS NOTE

PA232345 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1944 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Panama, 23 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- Richard Stone, U.S. special envoy to Central America, met this morning with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, to whom he delivered a note sent by President Ronald Reagan. De la Espriella said that Reagan's note, the contents of which were not revealed, is "very positive." The presidency's information office issued a communique this afternoon stating that the letter "contains very important ideas." President de la Espriella said that the contents of Reagan's note would not be revealed until it had been delivered to all the Contadora Group presidents.

Havana Reports Meeting

PA250049 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella received Richard Stone, special ambassador of U.S. President Ronald Reagan for Central America, in private in Panama City. It was reported that Stone delivered to the Panamanian president a letter from the U.S. President which is similar to letters to be addressed to the other Contadora Group presidents. After the meeting Stone was reluctant to make statements to the press. He did say, however, that the meeting with Ricardo de la Espriella was especially useful.

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO U.S. NAVAL MANEUVERS

Amado on U.S. Ships, City Bombings

PA220457 Panama City Televisors Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado by reporter Diana Arosemena; date and place not given]

[Text] Panama's foreign minister has said that the deployment of war vessels in the area is not positive for the Contadora Group's peace efforts in Central America. He added that the explosion of bombs here in the capital will not affect the foreign minister's meeting scheduled for the end of July.

[Begin recording] [Foreign Minister Amado] In our discussions in Cancun, we agreed that the reduction of arms in Central America is very important. The deployment of war vessels is definitely not in line with this policy. However, let us hope that good judgment prevails and the vessels will be used only in regular exercises for military training. Verbal wars must also be overcome because they have negative effects. We hope we can accomplish this in our meetings.

[Arosemena] Mr Amado, could the recent bomb explosions here in the captial affect the upcoming meeting of Central American and Contadora Group foreign ministers?

[Amado] No, I don't see any relation between sporadic incidents staged by some radical groups and our efforts to achieve peace in Central America. [end recording]

Columnist Criticizes Maneuvers

PA222151 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 22 Jul 83 p 9-a

["Starting Point" column by Griselda Lopez: "Captive Coasts"]

[Text] The United States pays little attention to declarations, whether they may be called Contadora or Cancun, as shown by the deployment of their military might on the seas and coasts off Central America with a fleet of eight warships, including the aircraft carrier "Ranger," carrying out maneuvers off the coasts of countries in conflict in a clear demonstration that they are not really interested in peace, but in an arms buildup, power, and a position of advantage. And we say to ourselves: This is a most shameless and inadmissible answer to the Contadora efforts. It is imperative that the Contadora Group issue a statement concerning these actions that bring us closer to the worsening of a crisis that will perpetuate itself and raze what is left of this poor continent that appears to be dangling by U.S. unilateral decisions, regardless of what our peoples may decide with responsibility, equilibrium, fairness, and justice.

These acts should prompt the Contadora Group to voice some kind of disagreement, because they are incompatible with the Cancun declaration whereby all nations should contribute to the demilitarization of the area. This is a dirty game which, besides being harmful, is humiliating and undignified, giving a feeling of impotence, as all efforts are completely useless. "The friendly nations of the area" should not be helped in this manner. These countries also attended the Contadora meetings and their statements showed consensus on the issues adopted there. Why, then, this unnecessary display of power?

We have always been "captives" of the U.S. presence in our countries, and we have often been forced to push them out, as in the case of Panama through long negotiations, where our blood was shed with heroism and dignity. We expect an explanation of this injury to our sovereignty and independence, and that the governments of the area will react proudly, and not as if they were "captives" willing to surrender their sovereignty, which was so difficult for our peoples to achieve.

Panama Role in Blockade Foreseen

PA222144 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 21 Jul 83 p 2

[Unsigned "Analysis": "Cancun: A Time Bomb That Has Not Been Deactivated"]

[Text] A concerned Central America saw its small hopes for a peaceful solution go up in smoke when the presidents of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama decided to timidly ask Cuba and the United States to get out of Honduras and El Salvador. Another diplomatic protocol result of the meeting was the repetition that Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala must solve their own problems to prevent an increase in violence.

The Contadora Group has held 10 preparatory meetings as well as unending discussions, and has followed all the paths of international law in a useless search for formulas that have only served to postpone the application of so-called "gunboat diplomacy" and to give time, to those who needed time, to prepare new armed actions. Mexico's Miguel de la Madrid has somberly and distrustfully announced that "the threat of war represents a great danger to peace in the hemisphere and the region." A spokesman for the Mexican president interpreted this statement, saying to newsmen covering the event "that they should start by withdrawing their military advisers from the area."

One of the phrases that could result in controversy is that which "prohibits the existence of foreign military bases" in Central America. Panama is considered, politically, part of Central America, and the United States has had here, since 1903, many installations to defend the canal. If after the year 2000 the United States insists on maintaining some bases in Panamanian territory, then the new negotiators could unilaterally cite the Cancun declaration to invoke the solidarity of Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia, which signed the document. One of the most important agreements reached in Cancun calls for "a freeze in the shipment of offensive weapons." Based on this, the U.S. Army and Navy have ordered air, sea, and land maneuvers aimed at showing the Cubans U.S. muscle as well as the North Americans' tactical capability to mount a blockade operation that would impede not only the importing of war equipment in Central America, but also everything that is essential for the Sandinist commanders to remain in power.

Panamanian army [as published] chief Ruben Dario Paredes has given a clear indication of what Panama's diplomatic position would be when this blockade takes place. Paredes said at a news conference at Coco Airport, in San Jose, Costa Rica, that if Cuba and Nicaragua do not adopt a more moderate attitude toward Central America, Panama could break relations with those two countries. The role the National Guard would adopt in the military context would be to guarantee the nonviolation of the borders of our neighbor to the north. In other words, the blockade at the San Juan River sector would be assured. The Costa Rican policemen, 75 percent of whom only have night sticks, could not do this job.

When the Torrijos-Carter Treaty was signed, few Panamanians could have imagined the important geopolitical role that Panama was to play in the defense of the canal, a strategic and vital area we are committed to defending. We could hardly continue shouting, as we did in the 50's, Yankee, go home.

Paredes Costa Rica Statement Defended

PA212131 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 21 Jul 83 p 10-b

[Tiburcio's column "Fist in the Eye"]

[Text] It is irritating to think that instead of offering possible solutions to our problems, which are a result of the situation throughout the world today, the writers of the opposition insist on trying to smear the image of Panama with bitter and unjustified criticisms that in the end boomerang against those who make them. Panama, an example of a democratic, peaceful, and progressive republic thanks to our temperament and aspirations to turn peace into a continued, perfect, everyday practice, rejects the aims of some of its bad children who want to promote hatred, rancor, distrust, and fear in order to fish in turbulent waters. But they shall not pass.

The statement of our National Guard commander, which these writers have tried to distort and ridicule, personifies the pacifist spirit of our government and people. It constitutes a perfect image of the position of our country which wants to improve and, if possible, to end the tragic situation affecting Central America, which brings sorrow and terror to all civilized citizens. To disregard the importance of his timely and wise statement is like trying to twist a worthy initiative to defend our sovereign position and the desire to save the Isthmus of Panama from the misfortune and sorrow affecting our neighboring nations today.

The inconsistency of their actions and words is irritating, and they remind us of the little moral authority of their position. Let us continue our efforts, disregarding such a malicious and ill-intended attitude because we know that the declarations of General Paredes in San Jose, Costa Rica, are supported by those who also know the menace that surrounds us. Because of it, we must speak the truth, above all, before it is too late.

REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON PANAMA CITY BOMB ATTACKS

Drug Rivalries Blamed

PA200420 Panama City YA in Spanish 19 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Violent rivalry and internal struggles among antagonistic cocaine bands seem to be the direct cause of the terrorist attacks that have occurred in the past few weeks. Eight days ago there was an attack on a nightclub, the Ancon Inn, which was carried out at 0300 and caused damage and injured one person. On Friday, at 2300, another terrorist bomb exploded at another nightclub, the El Manchego, also causing great damage and injuries. On both occasions powerful bombs were used.

It seems those responsible for these attacks told a local newspaper what they were going to do. These actions follow the same pattern as those occuring in Bolivia, Columbia, Miami and Palermo, where bands are fighting among themselves for the cocaine market in the various distribution centers. However, some authorities are concerned that these attacks could be the beginning of a leftist escalation against the recent rightist statements made by high-ranking officials.

Anonymous Caller's Explanation

PA221840 Panama City YA in Spanish 22 Jul 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] An anonymous caller has told this newspaper over the telephone, "We do not want death, we do not want to kill anyone." He spoke with our secretary about the bombings that are currently afflicting our country.

The anonymous telephone informant explained that they, the members of the group that has been planting and setting off bombs in different parts of the city, have been announcing the places where the bombs would be placed through newswoman Migdalia Fuentes and another reporter from the LA PRENSA newspaper. The announcements were to permit the authorities to take the necessary precautions to prevent personal injuries, because, for the time being, they do not want to cause any deaths. The informant apparently is not satisfied with the way LA PRENSA reported the information and announced that, from now on, he will use this newspaper to reveal where the bombs will be detonated.

He also explained that some people are apparently taking advantage of the situation and are creating false alarms by announcing that bombs have been placed in ministries and schools.

In a second phone call, the caller -- whose calm, youthful, and normal tone of voice seemed like that of a Panamanian to us -- said that they are not opposed to private enterprise, but are against the government. He also said that bombs were placed in the Manchego and Ancon Inn nightclubs because their owners are closely linked to the government.

Concluding, he said that there would be no bombings yesterday, but that there might be explosions today in the Via Espana sector.

Bomb in Local School Deactivated

PA230034 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] A small explosive device was found this morning in a classroom of the Pan-American Institute. The device, which had been placed inside a trash can, was deactivated by National Guard members. Likewise, it was also learned that anonymous calls were made to the National Cash Register Company, NCR, and the furniture store Ana de la Americana. These calls proved to be false alarms.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON POLICY QUESTIONS

PA230236 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 16 Jul 83 pp 1C, 2C

[Interview granted by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez to LA NACION's Eduardo Amador -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Amador] Do you deem the work of the Contadora Group useful for achieving peace in Central America?

[Volio] We are now at a dead end. That worries me because Contadora must enter a more dynamic and more practical stage so that the efforts carried out will not be diluted or lost. I am concerned about what happened in Panama on 22 June in the meeting of the "technical group," which had been planned by the meeting of the nine foreign ministers in Panama at the beginning of the month.

This group was to prepare the meeting of the nine foreign ministers to be held in mid-July. However, the "technicians'" talks became very hurried. In addition, much was said, and the topics discussed at the beginning of the month by the nine foreign ministers were repeated. That meeting was political, not technical. As a result, the document issued did not satisfy the five Central American countries, who made their remarks. The report is unclear and contains omissions and unacceptable remarks.

We cannot go to the Contadora Group to repeat speeches and talks. Costa Rica wants more dynamism in the future, more pragmatism, and a sense of urgency. This organization must advance from the state of document discussion. There is a good basis for doing so, that is, the agenda drafted for the meeting at the beginning of June, since it contains the conceptual framework of representative democracy and its corollary, which is the defense of human rights, free and periodic elections, and pluralism. In addition, the agenda stresses basically the struggle against arms build-up, against arms traffic, as well as respect for nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

[Amador] What importance does Richard Stone, U.S. special ambassador to Central America, attach to the action of the Contadora Group? Do you believe Mr Stone's work might be ignoring efforts such as those of the Contadora Group?

[Volio] During my talks with U.S. representatives I have been able to confirm that they expect good results from the Contadora Group action.

In addition, I do not think that Stone's actions weaken that organization. This group's action cannot weaken other governments' efforts, including those from the area, in the search for peaceful solutions. In this sense, I repeat, if the Contadora Group conditions our international policy as far as results expected are concerned, it cannot weaken us to the point that we cannot think of any other solutions, much less condition other countries that do not belong to that organization.

Stone's mission stresses efforts for peaceful solutions by the United States. That is an effort of the U.S. Government itself, which I will not analyze, since each country handles diplomacy in its own way.

[Amador] Do the statements made in San Jose by General Ruben Dario Parades against Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviet Union -- statements later confirmed by Foreign Minister Amado -- mean a change in Panamanian foreign policy?

[Volio] I don't think there will be any change in Panamanian foreign policy since President Ricardo de la Espriella and President Luis Alberto Monge signed a communique on 26 September in San Jose stating that the current position is the same as before.

What has caused us certain apprehension is the position of some Panamanian delegates during the meetings. These delegates, who belong to a different category, have expressed different viewpoints, which might be interpreted as contrary to the official Panamanian policy.

I believe that General Paredes' categorical and welcome declarations will have a positive effect on the Contadora Group, and eventually on the meetings of the Central American foreign ministers with the four members of that group, since this reinforces that conceptual framework fostered by our government. This is fundamental for us. We believe that peace in Central America, as in any other region, is achieved through a pluralist system.

[Amador] What, then, is the current nature of relations with Nicaragua?

[Volio] They have left us alone. There is peace. Relations are normal. When they wanted to abuse us and we reacted, tension was created. Either they decided to leave us alone, or their domestic circumstances dictated that. But right now, relations between the two countries are as they should be between countries that respect each other.

However, we must be vigilant. That country's regime and its Army demand that. In addition, it is suspicious that Nicaragua entertains doubts regarding our neutrality. A country like Costa Rica, with its democratic tradition and its respect for international law, deserves more credibility.

We should demand to be believed and we should not be forced to keep reiterating our neutrality. The opposite is true. Costa Rica has been affected by a campaign of international communism that has tried to discredit Costa Rica, which is a resplendent democracy. For this very reason, it irritates the totalitarians. We are placed in a defensive position by saying what we are not, and we lawyers know how difficult it is to prove negative facts. No, no. We must step forward and defend ourselves. We must assume a positive, dynamic, aggressive stance in order to demand respect for our country and its institutions.

The international community owes Costa Rica respect, because we have not harmed anyone. Costa Rica is one of that community's most honorable and respected members. This community owes Costa Rica its support, especially now, when we need it most.

Regarding the treatment accorded our country, there is an imbalance, a lack of equilibrium. I believe we must rest at peace and be sure that our stance has an legal and ethical foundation that is above suspicion.

AUTHORITIES ARREST NICARAGUAN GUERRILLAS

PA212104 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] An operation carried out jointly by the public force and the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) concluded late yesterday evening with the arrest of 25 anti-communist guerrillas belonging to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE. The arrest took place in the Los Chiles region, on the northern border.

Official sources who asked not to be identified reported today that the authorities stormed a camp occupied by 35 ADRE guerrillas and were able to capture 25 of them. The other 10 escaped. The authorities seized a large amount of weapons.

The Nicaraguan rebels had erected the camp a few kilometers away from Los Chiles.

According to reports, the OIJ has discovered that 4 of the 25 arrested Nicaraguan insurgents were being sought by the Costa Rican police on homicide charges.

The arrested Nicaraguan were taken to San Carlos, where they are at the disposal of the OIJ and the courts.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON VIEWS STONE MISSION, KISSINGER

PA220207 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 83

[Interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, by unidentified reporters; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [First reporter] Before leaving Washington, Ambassador Hinton told a reporter, regarding Mr Stone, that there was no need for a special envoy for El Salvador. What is your opinion about this, and about the appointment of the new commission that is headed by Henry Kissinger? What do you think of U.S. participation in the Salvadoran problem?

[D'Aubuisson] I did not understand the first part about what Mr Hinton said. Would you please repeat it?

[First reporter] Hinton did not approve of the appointment of another person to participate in the Salvadoran problem. He said there were enough capable people to do the job. Mr Stone was appointed, and now a commission headed by Kissinger.

[D'Aubuisson] I have not heard Mr Hinton's statement. I believe what you said. Mr. Hinton has a right to his opinions, and I am not going to argue with what he said. Now, regarding Mr Stone, I think he is playing an important role. If President Reagan appoints a commission of which Mr Kissinger is a member to advise the U.S. presidency, this is encouraging, because they are showing real interest in the Central American and Caribbean area, which is a strife-torn area and one of the objectives of the USSR -- not only El Salvador, but the rest of Central America and the Caribbean. Since 1980 the entire area has been in real danger. With the new commission, President Reagan will have much more information and be better informed.

[Second reporter] Major D'Aubuisson, as a member of the Apaneca Pact Political Commission, is it true that the Salvadoran Government has authorized U.S. Government representatives to negotiate with representatives of the guerrillas and to make decisions on the future of the Salvadoran people? Would you accept agreements with representatives of the guerrillas?

[D'Aubuisson] That is absolutely false. We have not authorized Mr Stone to do anything, but we cannot stop him from doing what he is doing. What we said to Mr Stone was that any plan for dialogue or negotiation will have to be based on the electoral process.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP LAMBASTS REAGAN POLICIES

PA231834 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Commentary from Salvadoran Human Rights Commission's "Before the National Conscience" program: "Reagan Prescribed Aircraft Carrier Diplomacy for Us"]

[Excerpts] Teletype machines throughout the world began printing faster than usual when Reagan announced to friend and foe alike 2 days ago that his administration has sent a task force consisting of eight warships, including an aircraft carrier carrying 70 planes, to Central America's Pacific coast.

The Pentagon said that the task forces is intended to underscore U.S. determination to protest its security interests in the area, and said that it would later include a second force, containing an aircraft carrier and a battleship, which will be off the Caribbean coast for 6 months of maneuvers.

What can we say about this measure except that it is a new and obvious act of intimidation and intervention by the United States? The first thing that comes to our mind is the North American empire's various acts of military intervention in Latin American nations.

Reagan trusts that his Marines will achieve what he describes as the pacification and democratization of the area's countries. He thinks that, based on force, weapons, and guns, he will bring an end to the conflicts that are the common denominator in Central America today.

Were it not for previous actions by the North Americans, of which we are aware, we would say that their foreign policy is, among other things, cynical, hypocritical, and shameless. Witness the fact that after presidents of the Contadora Group who are concerned about war and the regional conflict, appealed for dialogue and negotiation among the forces in conflict, Reagan sent his flotilla out on another strictly imperialist adventure.

We must ask: Where is Reagan's verbiage about respect for human rights and his posture on democracy in Latin America when he unhesitatingly launches forceful actions against nations whose only crime is to aspire to self-determination, against nations that have become enemies of the United States merely because they have firmly raised the banner of dignity and independence?

We Latin Americans have become sufficiently aware to firmly reject any armed intervention in our fatherland. Mr Reagan should realize that today's world is different form that of 30 or 40 years ago. The entire world rejects any imperialist adventure these days and we, the Latin Americans, shall become a single fist to stop the imperialist invader.

RIGHTS COMMISSION COMMENTS ON CANCUN SUMMIT

PA221941 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 Jul 83

[Salvadoran Human Rights Commission's "Before the National Conscience" program]

[Text] The four presidents of the Contadora Group -- Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela, Belisario Betancur of Colombia, and Ricardo de la Espriella of Panama -- met this weekend in Cancun, Mexico. The summit meeting was held at the invitation of the Mexican president, in view of the continuing tragic and violent situation in Central America.

The fact that the summit meeting was called on such short notice proves how grave the situation in Central America really is.

The four presidents concluded that the Reagan administration is ready to increase its intervention in Central America at every level. They reached this conclusion based on facts that simply cannot be considered mere speculation. When the White House insists on solving conflicts in Central America, which it considers vital to its security, in its own way, it is easy to believe that if necessary it would not hesitate to intervene with troops.

The following facts are just a few examples: the establishment of a military base in Hondruas, which openly violated the country's sovereignty; the millions given in military aid to the Salvadoran and Honduran regimes; and the support for the counterrevolutionary forces fighting against Nicaragua, to mention just a few.

President Reagan is constantly talking about the region in a threatening way, with a domineering and imperialist attitude. In fact, all he cares about are U.S. strategic interests, which consist of keeping the region under U.S. political domination and subject to U.S. economic exploitation.

The Cancun meeting is of great importance because it is increasing the internation community's awareness of the situation and of the danger that exists in Central America.

The U.S. President has expressed views that leave no doubt that the Central American region could be visisted by U.S. Marines at any moment.

We are in complete accord with the views and fears that led to the meeting of the four Contadora Group presidents, and as Salvadorans we have the moral and patriotic duty to prevent, in any way possible, the imperialist power from setting its boots in our fatherland.

MINORITY PARTIES FRONT ON ELECTIONS COUNCIL

PA222245 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] The Minority Parties' Front composed of the POP [Popular Orientation Party], MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement], PID [Democratic Independent Party], and ECO [Businessmen, Peasants, and Workers] will struggle against the Central Elections Council, where elements resembling dictators more than anything else are entrenched. The parties said during a news conference that they represent the people's true interests and that, conversely, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson fears his followers will leave the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] because of his failure to fulfill many of his promises to them. Again referring to the Central Elections Council, the new front of minority parties has said that they will not rest until the Central Elections Council is cleaned up.

COPREFA SAYS NO CHARGES MADE AGAINST RED CROSS

PA220155 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Jul 83 p 30

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] has flatly denied that Colonel Jorge Adalberto Cruz, commander of the Armed Forces Commando Training Center in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department, made a statement charging that the International Red Cross and Amnesty International are engaging in activities that support terrorism.

A false story on the alleged statement by Col Cruz was published yesterday.

COPREFA appealed to the public not to be confused by this kind of misinformation.

HAVANA REPORTS STUDENTS ASK END OF 'REPRESSION'

PA232340 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] The General Association of Salvadoran University Students, AGEUS, has demanded that the Alvaro Magana regime put an end to the repression of university professors and students.

In a letter addressed to Magana, AGEUS demands the release of Ricardo Calderon, secretary general of the University of El Salvador; Ismael Recino, chief of the Public Relations Office of the same university; and other students under arrest.

AGEUS also demands compliance with a Constituent Assembly agreement that the university campus will be returned to university authorities. The campus was taken over by the Army in 1980 and the intervention continues.

According to other reports, 20 Salvadoran regime soldiers died in clashes with guerrillas in the departments of Cabanas and Cuscatlan.

FMLN ATTACK BLAMED FOR POWER OUTAGES IN CAPITAL

PA222308 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1545 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] The Lempa River Hydroelectric Commission, CEL, confirmed this morning that several main cables as well as high voltage towers and lines from the 5 November Dam to the centers that distribute power to this capital and towns in the interior were dynamited by FMLN rebels yesterday afternoon. This is the reason for the prolonged power outages that have been occurring in San Salvador and towns in central and eastern El Salvador since yesterday evening.

In a new appeal to the citizens, CEL asks for understanding and advises that teams have been working since yesterday evening in the areas where the electric lines from the 5 November Hydroelectric Plant to this capital were damaged.

CEL spokesmen said that, naturally, some sacrifices have to be made because some areas that were without electricity last night are now being provided with the service. They added that some of San Salvador's districts and suburbs in the central and eastern areas were affected this morning, but that electric service will be completely restored throughout the nation today.

COPREFA REPORTS OPERATION IN MORAZAN DEPARTMENT

PA241840 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Jul 83 pp 4, 25

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] has reported that the government forces are advancing on two fronts -- one in the Sociedad area and the other in the Cacaopera region -- to rid northern Morazan of terrorist hideouts.

A COPREFA spokesman said that units from the Lenca Battalion, from the Commando Training Center headquartered in Gotera, are taking part in this operation.

These troops are being supported by artillery fire and by an Air Force paratrooper squadron. The source said that terrorist camps in the area have been destroyed and that the subversive groups are being pursued.

The source said that the final objective will be considered achieved when the Army has been able to completely clean out the hilly area, as well as some rugged areas near San Fernando, Perquin, and other towns close to the Honduran border.

The official source said that elements from the 6th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in La Union, have begun to move to the northern and northeastern regions of this department, along the departmental border, to carry out operations similar to those being carried out by the Lenca Battalion.

COPREFA reports that a rebel attack took place in Sociedad when troops were distributing food to the civilian population, but that the rebels were repelled. There has been no report on casualties.

It is of note that the government troops, in addition to providing security and protection to the civilian population, also distribute medicine and food to the needy.

FMLN FORCES ATTACK SAN MIGUEL, 9 REPORTED WOUNDED

PA230205 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] According to the military reports received from San Miguel, a large group of guerrillas, members of the leftist FMLN, launched an attack on the local security posts at 0100. The posts were defended only by National Guard and civilian defense members.

According to the military sources, six national guardsmen and three civilian defense members were wounded this morning at around 0700. Telephone and telegraph communications with that area have been interrupted.

At the time this report was prepared, the casualties had not yet been evacuated by the Air Force units that have been sent to the area attacked.

VENCEREMOS SCORES U.S.-HONDURAN NAVAL MANEUVERS

PA221700 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] The U.S. imperialists have announced that they will conduct a number of military maneuvers in August along Central America's coasts. The intention of these imperialist threats to the Central American people is made obvious by the size of the maneuver: A total of 5,000 men will participate, in addition to an aircraft carrier, 7 frigates, and 60 combat planes. Honduran troops will also take part in these maneuvers under the command of ranking U.S. officers, giving the appearance of absolute coordination between the Honduran Army and imperialism's plans.

These miliary maneuvers are more than a simple military drill or training session: they amount to a specific step toward U.S. imperialist intervention in Central America. The Yankee war drums to be heard along the Central American coastline will clearly prove the existence of a carefully laid out plan to land U.S. troops on our territory, in a desperate bid by the Reagan administration to stop our revolutionary advance.

The Pentagon strategists mistakenly hope to accustom our people to the presence of their troops and their criminal war machine. Though imperialism's spokesmen scrupulously deny their warmongering intentions in Central America, the 60 combat planes, the 7 warships, and the 5,000 troops speak more clearly than Richard Stone about the kind of peace that Reagan really wants for our peoples.

Warships and combat planes are the imperialist government's answer to the peace proposals submitted by several Latin American governments. War, not peace, is Ronald Reagan's inclination, and the Honduran Government is his most loyal ally and unconditional subordinate in that irrational position.

The worn-out internationalization of peace so often proposed by the Honduran Government can no longer be used by Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica, following his regime's participation in military maneuvers that promote and internationalize warfare and encourage imperialist intervention. Gustavo Alvarez and his clique of rightist and pro-imperialist Honduran officers are the real betrayers of the ideals of Francisco Morazan and Simon Bolivar. With their shameless and servile obedience to imperialism, they are surrendering our sovereignty and our people's right to determine their own destiny. These military maneuvers, nevertheless, will not bully anyone into retreating, nor will they frighten anyone. The determiniation of the peoples of Marti and Sandino will not be reduced by imperialist threats, as our decision to fight for our national liberation increases and strengthens our anti-imperialist feeling.

GUATEMALA

STATE COUNCIL HEAD SCORES U.S. NAVY PRESENCE

PA222204 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1843 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 July (ACAN-EFE) -- The president of the Guatemalan State Council, Jorge Serrano Elias, criticized the sending of U.S. warships to Central America and said that the regional conflict was being extensively internationalized.

"I believe we are approaching the internationalization of the armed conflict in Central America at a very rapid, regrettable, and touchy pace," Serrano Elias declared today. The State Council president said that the sending of a U.S. war fleet to the area is "regrettable" and pointed out that the solutions to the problems of the area should come from "ourselves" (Central Americans).

Meanwhile, the defense minister, General Oscar Mejia Victores, noted in that respect that "it must be a strategic plan which they (the United States) have prepared. They know why they are sending the warships." When asked if the presence of the U.S. Navy in Central American waters could cause a reduction of the "export" of subversion from Nicaragua to the other countries of the area, Mejia Victores said that "it could." "The mere presence of a fleet or of a few warships such as those sent to the area is a matter that makes one think twice about any attitude," he pointed out.

RIOS MONTT SAYS HE WILL TURN OVER POWER IN 1986

PA222119 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Jul 83 p 10

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 21 Jul -- Guatemalan President General Efrain Rios Montt announced in a weekly meeting with political leaders that he will turn over power in 1986 after the process of returning to constitutional order has been completed.

He added that the Constituent Assembly elections will be held in July 1984.

Regarding this, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, secretary general of the Union of the National Center [Union del Centro Nacional -- UCN], said that during the meeting between Rios Montt and the politicians this morning it was pointed out that the calendar for the election process will be decided on Thursday, and that the Constituent Assembly elections cannot be held before July 1984.

It was stressed that efforts are being made to give equal opportunity to all, since it would be antidemocratic to hold hasty elections. It was also proposed that the elections be held after July.

De Leon said that a second important point that was discussed was the topic of granting identification cards and the possibility that this process will be completed before the elections. In the municipalities where this has not been achieved, a mechanism will be applied to make it possible without the lack of participation and the fraud that occurred in the past.

It was stressed that the necessary reforms of the political laws will be carried out, guaranteeing the credibility of and confidence in this process.

The work will permit the committee to immediately begin registration and operations.

De Leon Carpio pointed out that the UCN and the other committees presented a proposal for the holding of elections on 19 August 1984 and the installation of the Constituent Assembly on 15 September 1984.

RIOS MONTT DISCUSSES POLITICAL DIALOGUE, TAXES

PA222112 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] During the president's talk with media representatives yesterday, he expressed his willingness to hold an open dialogue with the political leaders in order to define ideas for September of this year. General Rios Montt has scheduled a meeting with the leaders of the committees for the formation of political parties, and he expects that the leaders' request regarding the calendar they have proposed for an election for the national Constituent Assembly will be discussed at this meeting, which has been slated for tomorrow.

According to the president, the economic upswing will permit the carrying out of social benefit programs. This will be made possible by the tax reform that will go into effect on 1 August. The president indicated that the effects of this tax reform will be felt in the agricultural area in particular, where job opportunities will be given to thousands of peasants, who will thus have money to feed their families. President Rios Montt also said at a recent news conference that whenever there is a national economic emergency, new taxes are considered. The president said:

[Begin recording] Whenever the government faces economic problems, the subject of taxes makes for good questions by the journalists. However, I would ask: What government in need does not do this? [words indistinct] The problem of the international economy, the national financial and economic problem, and, above all, tax evasion have forced us to engage in a cycle that changes this concept and initiates a new reform in which we must all participate. The reform apparently entails a tax hike, but this is not the case [words indistinct]. The truth is that the tax issue entails a reform that is not [words indistinct].

The prices of staples are rising, not because of [word indistinct] but because of the businessmen's sense of business [words indistinct]. The businessmen were apparently looking for these things. Unfortunately, they have not thought about the Agricultural Marketing Institute that we will set in motion to lower the competition a bit. I could (?very sadly) tell you that it was not an economic necessity but a tax reform that was imposed in Guatemala. [sentence as heard] No new taxes have been levied; the concept has merely been reformed. [end recording]

According to the president, the concept of budget and development is changing. He said:

[Begin recording] We are changing the concept of budget and development completely. Economic planning will not be made in the finance palace [words indistinct] toward the finance palace. We will bring about actively democratic development with regard to planning; we will also bring the needs of the interior here. This will allow us to prepare a decentralized budget so that the local authorities can have the chance to see development and to participate in the development of their municipalities. There is a change in concept. [end recording]

REGIME INVITES COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS TO POLLS

FL231458 Bridgetown CANA in English 1143 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Guatemala City, July 23, CANA-REUTER -- Guatemala's military government said yesterday it is seeking communist and socialist participation in 1984 national elections.

Interior Minister Ricardo Mendez Ruiz told reporters that even the Communist Party -- known here as the Guatemalan Workers Party (PGT) -- was welcome to take part. Guatemalan governments had outlawed the PGT in elections since 1954, when a U.S.-backed coup overthrew populist President Jacobo Arbenz.

Mendez Ruiz said he had recently travelled to Costa Rica to encourage exiled leftist leaders to return here and legally register their parties.

He pledged the government would not persecute them, but warned it could not guarantee their safety from "difficult to control" rightist gunmen blamed for the deaths of many leftist leaders.

Guatemala plans July, 1984 elections for an assembly to draft a constitution paving the way for the nation's eventual return to democratic rule, officials said.

President Efrain Rios Montt banned the nation's previous Constitution when he seized power in a March, 1982 coup.

'UNUSUAL' AIR FORCE FLIGHTS OVER CAPITAL NOTED

PA230053 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0034 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Air Force planes and helicopters flew over the capital today, leaving residents bewildered, according to afternoon newspapers. The unusual flights began at noon and continued into the afternoon amid cloudy skies and heavy rains.

When questioned, Air Force officers said these continuous and unusual flights over various areas of the capital were part of routine military maneuvers.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA PROTESTS TO D'ESCOTO FOR ATTACKS

PA231933 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Protest note sent to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto by Honduran Foreign Sectretary Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica on 21 July -- read by announcer]

[Text] At 0900 on 10 July, Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops entered Honduran territory through the place known as Munguia, in (Mannure) Municipality, Choluteca Department. where they set fire to Conrado Vasquez' house, reducing it to ashes.

Again at 0500 on 14 July, Sandinist army elements entered the area of El Carao, in Concepcion de Maria Municipality, Choluteca Department, where they shot Honduran citizen Segundo Madariaga in the leg. Madariaga died 30 minutes late as a result of this injury.

It has also been reported that at 0700 on 20 July, a 25-foot Honduran patrol boat of the Piranha trype was on a routine mission when its radar detected an unidentified vessel entering Honduran territorial waters off Punta Condega. The nautical coordinates were 87, 27, and 45 west longitude; and 13, 07, 00 north latitude. When the Honduran patrol boat tried to identify the vessel, and to carry out the appropriate inspection, the foreign vessel, which proved to be a Nicaraguan patrol boat, opened fire with a .50-cal machinegun. The Hunduran vessel had to return fire. While this action was taking place, two Nicaraguan combat planes showed up and fired two rockets, wounding sailor Gustavo Alas. My government once again strongly protests these actions, which reflect the constant harassment and provocation undertaken by the Sandinist forces, and which negate the Nicaraguan Government's proclaimed desire for peace.

INCURSION, GUNFIRE BY 400 SANDINISTS ALLEGED

PA241300 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1219 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Guillermo Arias Rodriguez' report from Choluteca, Honduras -- live relay]

[Excerpt] Some 400 Sandinist Army troops have entered Honduran territory. They engaged in heavy rifle fire, and used 50-mm and 81-mm mortars as well. Their fire was heard as far as San Marcos de Colon.

The Sandinist troops remained about an hour in Santa Rita, on Honduran territory, 2 km from the Nicaraguan border. Nine persons died, but residents did not want to give details to this reporter and would not identify the dead.

While Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, speaking on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government, made a specific proposal on 19 July calling for a nonaggression agreement, in practice he does the very opposite. The latest aggression against the Honduran people was perpetrated on Friday, 22 July, at 1900, when some 400 Sandinist Army troops came like vandals into the village of Santa Rita, owned [as heard] by Ramon Zuniga, a deputy in the National Congress. They fired 50-mm and 81-mm mortar and automatic rifles. The gunfire was heard by all of the residents of San Marcos de Colon, according to what was told this reporter by many area residents. This reporter was in the area to confirm these reports.

Santa Rita residents have said that they saw nine bodies, but they refused to provide additional information, perhaps because they are afraid. As a result, we cannot give you the identity of the dead. Departmental authorities, however, are required to make a complete report to the Honduran people.

The dead were found in a place called El Portillo, on Honduran territory, so it is possible that the Sandinists' gunfire resulted in the death of local peasants. An immediate investigation is therefore necessary.

SUAZO ADDRESSES LETTER TO CONTADORA PRESIDENTS

PA231651 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] On 21 July, Honduran President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova addressed letters to the presidents of the Contadora Group countries -- Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama. President Suazo Cordova's letter is in response to one that the Contadora Group presidents sent him earlier to inform him of the official text of the Cancun Declaration on peace in Central America. President Suazo Cordova's letter states the following:

Dear Mr President: I am pleased to inform you that I have received the letter that you and the other distinguished presidents of the Contadora Group countries signed jointly on 18 July, after meeting in Cancun.

I have read that letter and the declaration on Central American peace that was enclosed with it very carefully. I will begin by expressing my sincere recognition of that effort, an addition to the already valuable contributions made by the Contadora Group to see that both peace and security return to Central America.

My government has always seen in the group's efforts the fraternal interest of nations that are intimately connected with Honduras in terms of its ideals of peace, justice, and democracy. Furthermore, it is with justified satisfaction that I have confirmed the great agreement that exists between certain points in the Cancun Declaration and the initiative to internationalize peace in Central America that was presented to the OAS Permanent Council by my government on 23 March 1982. This initiative is the first serious effort by a country of the area to achieve the praiseworthy goals that we all share.

On that occasion, Honduras noted six specific proposals, which may be summed up as follows:

1. To act immediately to establish the foundations for achieving general disarmament in the area. This would imply not only an end to the arms race, which has brought so much tension and such imbalance to Central American and continental relations, but a true reduction of arms and military personnel as well, in order to reach, in those countries that have armed forces, levels that are deemed strictly necessary for defense of sovereignty and territorial integrity and for maintenance of public order, in accordance with the universally accepted requirements and views that are recognized in any democratic society under law. These foundations should also include agreements as to the kinds of weapons that would be either limited or banned under this general disarmament plan.

2. To agree, as well, on the objective and reasonable reduction of foreign military and other advisers, and of any other elements who might generate doubt and uneasiness or who might alter the identity that characterizes each nation.

3. To study and agree on mechanisms that are deemed appropriate to ensure control, through international supervision and vigilance, over the fulfillment of commitments made by the Central American governments. This supervision and vigilance would be extended to those countries where there are conflicts and to sensitive places that might affect peace in the area, such as ports, airports, border zones, and strategic areas. My country is most suitably and sincerely inclined to open its territory without reservation to any sort of international supervision and vigilance that might be agreed on for the basic purpose of finding and strengthening peace.

4. To discuss and agree on procedures and mechanisms that are best suited for stopping the arms traffic in the area.

5. To maintain total respect for delimited and demarcated borders and for the traditional jurisdictional lines of the area's states, so as not to disturb peace with new disputes on either land or sea.

6. To establish guidelines for a permanent multilateral dialogue that, on the basis of this initiative, would also lead to internal political understandings to strengthen a democratic and pluralist system guaranteeing respect for public freedoms and for the peoples' right to express their will freely.

This pacifist stand by Honduras, which was formulated less than 2 months after I constitutionally took office as president of the republic, has been maintained by my government and has been reiterated at all international forums, most recently in a speech delivered at the OAS Permanent Council only a few days ago.

It is with this same spirit that Honduras will attend the next joint meeting of Contadora Group foreign ministers and those of the Central American countries. I am sure that the ministers will place high value on the concepts included in the Cancun Declaration, taking advantage of all that might improve the agenda that has already been unanimously approved, within the framework of which they must channel their discussions.

In this regard, the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, who met in Guatemala City 19-20 July, issued a communique specific references to this declaration, which is also related to the next meeting slated for Panama.

Once again, as a Central American, I wish to put on record the great value that my goverment places on the Contadora Group's efforts. These efforts have now been reinforced at the highest level, and have been directed toward making it easier for the Central American governments to find the universal and regional peaceful solutions demanded by the problems that are currently affecting the entire area.

I beg you, Mr President, to accept my most cordial greeting.

[Signed] Roberto Suazo Cordova, President

PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON NICARAGUAN PROPOSAL

PA221524 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Report on interview with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica; date and place not given, questioners not identified -- passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] We asked Pas Barnica about the Honduran stand on the nonaggression pact that Nicaragua presented as a proposal to Honduras, and he said:

"During a visit to Guatemala yesterday for a meeting with Central American Foreign ministers, I issued a specific statement on that issue. In his speech on the occasion of the anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution, Commander Daniel Ortega made some kind of a proposal that, although referring to multilateral negotiations, truly involves bilateral issues that benefit only the Nicaraguan Government. What Commander Ortega and the Nicaraguan Government did was take certain excerpts from the Cancun Declaration, which seeks an overall and regional solution, and incorporate them into this Nicaraguan proposal, which seeks to protect Nicaraguan interests, to guarantee their own political system, while gaining a free hand to continue their interference in the domestic affairs of other countries and their destabilization of democratic governments, like those of Honduras and Costa Rica.

"We can negotiate this overall and regional aspect and [word indistinct], as well as specific bilateral issues, with Nicaragua. As for a nonaggression pact, however, this isn't new. The Nicaraguan Government has been asking for that since the Policarpo Paz Garcia administration. (?If a nonaggression pact is signed) it is to put a stop to attacks, but Honduras has never been in a position to attack anyone. We stress on this occasion that [words indistinct].

"In addition, both Honduras and Nicaragua are members of the United Nations and the OAS, which have specific legal provisions in their charters that prohibit aggression. Thus, it is the obligation of all member states to refrain from attacking anyone. In fact, these charters specify punishment for aggressors. If the Central American problem is solved through a regional and overall approach to topics like the arms buildup, illegal arms trafficking, the withdrawal of foreign advisers, the democratization of the Nicaraguan revolution, the establishment of political, democratic and pluralist systems [words indistinct] of countries, and respect for human rights, then bilateral problems would disappear automatically.

"Notwithstanding this, the Honduran Government is very willing to reach agreements that permit peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect among states. Let's go to Contadora in Panama next week with a willingness to continue to work for peace, but also with [word indistinct] and the dignity that current circumstances require, to find a peaceful and diplomatic solution, because our people, our leaders, and the Honduran Government do not want a military solution for the Central American drama. This would mean a failure for diplomacy, which is what should prevail."

[Question] Does this mean that the Honduran people should not believe that there is any sincerity in the Nicaraguan proposal?

[Paz Barnica] "I believe that when a proposal is made seeking permanent and truly legitimate solutions, one must act in good faith. The use of good faith in international relations in a basic principle in internatinal law. [words indistinct] of the Nicaraguan Government, but we don't share them. [passage indistinct; we believe that the Contadora effect must be strengthened and supported. For this reason, we also believe that Nicaragua, with this decison to take excerpts from the Contadora proposal, is trying to prevent the triumph of the Contadora efforts. [passage indistinct]"

[Question] U.S. officials, however, have described this proposal as positive.

[Paz Barnica] "That is the view of the U.S. Government, but it doesn't necessarily mean that Honduras feels the same way. We are sovereign and independent states, with excellent relations of cooperation and friendship. The United States said that it views as positive the fact that Nicaragua is saying that the Central American problems must be solved within a multilateral context. This is positive, but it is easier said than done. We must see the specific realities and the measures that Nicaragua is willing to implement along this path."

[Question] Is there optimism that the Central American crisis will be solved in large measure next week?

[Paz Barnica] "When there is such a serious and dramatic crisis [words indistinct], imbued with controversies and expections that have gone beyond regional and continental boundaries and now involve the entire international community, one cannot find solutions overnight. I feel that the third meeting sponsored by the Contadora Group with the Central American foreign ministers, to be held in Panama next week, will be crucial, historic and decisive, for specific measures must be taken within the framework of the overall and regional aspects approved by the nine foreign ministers in Panama City in late May."

NICARAGUA

BORGE SAYS U.S. FLEET COULD LEAD TO 'APOCALYPSE'

PA250231 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0036 GMT 25 Jul 83

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 24 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government warned today, Sunday, that the presence of U.S. naval forces in this region "could lead Central America to an apocalypse" and he therefore called on the United States to give up its "irresponsible and overbearing" attitude.

Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge referred to the presence of U.S. vessels in the area while delivering the main speech at a ceremony honoring the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth at the Ruben Dario people's theater in Managua.

Borge said that "the mouths of the cannons of the U.S. ships are pointing, like gaping orifices, at the heart of Contadora, mocking the presidents who met in Cancun, Mexico, and who are now meeting in Caracas, Venezuela." In the presence of the government junta and the doplomatic corps, Borge said that the mouths of those cannons are also spitting out "the inevitable saliva" to once again show disrespect for the memory of Bolivar.

Looking directly at the ambassadors, Borge said that the threat of the U.S. warships is not aimed at Nicaragua but at America and perhaps at the world. He said that the U.S. Government will be responsible for the results of "this crisis" and that therefore we are asking them to reflect and be prudent.

The interior minister announced that the FSLN National Directorate is calling on Nicaraguans to increase their practical and unwavering defense of the fatherland and the revolution on the bicentennial of the Liberator's birth. He said: "We would like to sign peace agreements with these hands, but we can also use them to hold our rifles to defend the dreams of Bolivar and Sandino."

Borge said that while the United States continues to be more overbearing, more absurd, and more irresponsible, we Sandinists "will be more revolutionary, more anti-imperialist, more responsible, and more patriotic."

He stressed "we prefer pens to sign agreements, but let them (the North Americans) not forget that we handle rifles much better."

The minister said earlier that the FSLN National Directorate had discussed the 6-point Nicaraguan peace plan for 1 week before announcing it here on 19 July. Borge said that they decided to accept multilateral negotiations as a way to advance toward discussions "on a two-way street without any traffic lights."

He emphasized that although they agreed to discuss alleged shipment of arms from Nicaragua "to the Salvadoran revolutionaries, this does not mean that we are going to halt our solidarity with the Salvadoran people."

"This does not mean that we are going to condemn the Salvadoran revolutionaries to isolation, because even grade school children know that revolutions re not exported," he added.

However, Borge indicated that since that topic was suggested for discussion, "we are willing to make commitments (on the transshipment of weapons) by means of adequate and opportune control mechanisms, even though the United States has never presented any proof in this regard."

Borge said that in the same manner in which the topic of the flow of arms was included (in the peace proposal) they also found it necessary to request the signing of a non-aggression agreement between Honduras and Nicaragua. He underlined: "The unmarked cards are on the table. We are playing cleanly and seriously, although, historically speaking, the aces are the property of the revolutionary peoples."

Borge insisted that only through "our enemies' stubborness" can there be a refusal to discuss the six-point proposal. The proposal is there. It is up to the world to judge the reply it receives," said Borge, Nicaraguan interior minister and president of the Bolivarian Commission of Nicaragua, at the Ruben Dario people's theater in Managua tonight.

TRIBUNAL LEADER CONDEMNS PRESENCE OF U.S. FLEET

PA230505 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] The Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, today demanded of Ronald Reagan's government the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. fleet from the Central American area. A declaration signed by TANA President Guillermo Toriello and Executive Secretary Freddy Balzan stressed that Reagan's decision to send frigates into areas near Nicaragua represents a rejection of the peace proposals made by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. TANA also called on the peoples of the world to strengthen their solidarity with Nicaragua and stated that Central America will not be the United States' backyard.

TANA today issued a declaration repudiating and condemning the presence in Central America of a U.S. fleet because this endangers regional and world peace. Protesting the presence of the U.S. fleet in Central America, TANA described the White House actions of calling for peace and negotiations while sending ships to Central America in a war-mongering attitude, making the situation of the area tenser as an unacceptable mockery of the countries that form the Contadora Group. The declaration added that Reagan lies when he states that U.S. borders are in danger. In the face of this, the Latin American peoples say that our America will never be the United States' backyard.

REAGAN NEGATIVE REPLY TO PEACE PROPOSAL REPORTED

PA220506 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Washington, D.C. -- U.S. President Reagan has replied negatively to the Nicaraguan proposal to start unilateral [as heard] negotiations for a political solution to the Central American conflict.

When reporters asked Reagan his opinion about the Nicaraguan peace proposal, he said he did not think it was enough. He added that it is what the counterrevolutionaries want that is good, and what the counterrevolutionaries want is to oust the Nicaraguan Government.

With these statements, which contrast with what was proposed by Nicaragua, it was clearly revealed who is really seeking peace formulas for Central America. Reagan also admitted that his government's plans include the possibility of blockading Nicaragua.

HAVANA CITES NOTE SENT TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

PA220431 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Excerpt] In a note sent to the UN Security Council, the Nicaraguan Government has reaffirmed its conviction that the use of force to solve the Central American political crisis will only worsen the existing tensions.

the document reaffirms the peace proposals presented by the Sandinist revolution last Tuesday, in which it reiterated its viewpoint that the present regional situation requires bilateral solutions, but nevertheless accepted the start of multilateral negotiations in order to put an end to the excuses of those who are not interested in stopping the war.

the points included in the Nicaraguan proposal suggest a halt to military exercises in Central America with the participation of foreign troops, absolute respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of nations in the area, and a halt to economic and military aggressions.

FURTHER ON FSLN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Defense Official Comments

PA241417 Paris AFP in Spanish 0137 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Managua, 23 Jul (AFP) -- The danger of war, which might explode "in the next few days," was stressed today by Nicaraguan officials during the celebration of the FSLN's 22nd anniversary.

Hugo Torres, head of the Defense Ministry's Political Directorate, pointed out during an event in Leon, 90 km north of Managua, that the United States "is trying to initiate a naval blockade against Nicaragua" while "preparing for aggression."

During the commemoration -- which was presided over by Bayardo Arce, FSLN political coordinator and National Directorate member -- Torres asserted that "we are obliged to prepare ourselves for a war that we do not want."

The promotion of 23 army officers was announced during the ceremony, which was broadcast over a national radio network, and homage was paid to the memory of a group of young men who were massacred in 1959 by Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship.

In addition, certificates were given to FSLN collaborators, and pins bearing the likeness of (?Augusto Cesar) Sandino were presented to old combatants from the army who, led by Sandino, defended the nation's sovereignty in the 1920's by facing U.S. Marines in the mountainous jungles of Nicaragua.

Soviet, Other Delegations Depart

PA230516 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Summary Poor Reception] The delegations of the USSR, Bulgaria, and Mexico have left for their countries. Before departing from the airport, they made statements for this newscast.

USSR Justice Minister Vladimir Terebilov, an alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy of the Supreme Soviet, spoke of the importance of Nicaragua's position. He noted that although the Nicaraguan people are armed, they actually desire and believe in peace. However, their many peace overtures have been rebuffed by the U.S. Government.

Bulgarian representative Velko Palin, a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, expressed support for the efforts of the Contadora Group, while a spokesman for the Mexican delegation said that his country's position is to continue the efforts, through specific peace proposals, designed to prevent the stockpiling of arms, escalation of tension and uncertainty over the security of borders.

Castro Sends Congratulations

PA230503 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jul 83 p 1, 5

[Letter from Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz to the Nicaraguan Government Junta on the occasion of the fourth Sandinist anniversary; dated 16 July 1983]

[Text] Dear Companeros, Members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua: On the fourth anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist People's Revolution, we send to you and to the heroic and devoted Nicaraguan people our warmest and most fraternal congratulations.

The revolutionary triumph of the popular masses in Nicaragua is a fact of great historical importance to Latin America and the Caribbean, especially to Central America. The Nicaraguan people, inspired by the ideals of Augusto Cesar Sandino and Carlos Fonseca Amador, and directed by their political-military vanguard, the FSLN, demonstrated that through struggle, courage, revolutionary unity, and a revolutionary program that responds to Nicaragua's historical needs, it was possible to eliminate the shameful Somozist dictatorship.

Our two peoples are linked by a historical friendship and brotherhood. We have suffered in our own flesh identical exploitation, first under Spanish colonial domination, and later from rapacious imperialist greed. The revolutionary triumph in Cuba and Nicaragua made it possible for our peoples to rediscover each other and to strengthen their brotherhood with the establishment of mutually beneficial cooperation.

We value highly Nicaragua's achievements since the revolutionary victory in the difficult conditions under which the reconstruction of the country has had to be carried out, facing the destabilizing actions of Yankee imperialism, which has supported and armed thousands of former Somozist guards in Honduras. They attack Nicaragua from that country, with the open and unmasked support of the Honduran Government, and use Costa Rican territory for similar counterrevolutionary endeavors. In response to these acts of aggression, Nicaragua has maintained a firm position that has won ample support all over the world, both for its efforts to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict -- which have been blocked by the U.S. Government's aggressive policies that attempt, uselessly, to change the course of history -- and for the determination of the Nicaraguan people -- who have been distinguished by their heroism, tenacity, and political maturity -- to defeat their enemies and achieve new victories in national reconstruction. In the beautiful effort to construct a new Nicaragua, you will always be able to count on the support and the solidarity of the Cuban people. We wish you, once more, the great success and revolutionary triumphs in this historical battle for the future.

Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the State Council and the Government of the Republic of Cuba

HAVANA ON REAGAN SPEECH, KISSINGER APPOINTMENT

PA220527 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Jul 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] On Monday Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States, announced -- with new threats against Nicaragua and the same anticommunist diatribe -- the creation of a bipartisan commission headed by Henry Kissinger, the former secretary of state, to develop Washington's Central American policy. With the creation of this bipartisan group, Reagan is trying to avoid having Congress reduce funds for the undercover operations that the United States is carrying out against Nicaragua, and to obtain an additional $110 million from the Congress to beef up military aid to the Salvadoran regime.

It is evident that the U.S. President is trying to counteract the rejection his Central American policy generates among sectors of the Congress and the general public, who are becoming increasingly aware of the danger that Washington's growing interventionist role in Central America may entail. A White House spokesman recognized this when he stated that the commission, in addition to making recommendations on long-range policy for Central America, will also help to rally a national consensus behind the current policy.

THE WASHINGTON POST, a U.S. daily, feels that some may be pleased that the commission is encouraging the long-range social and economic aspirations of the United States by precipitating a military victory, but the paper adds that it is cynical to utilize the commission as a scheme to secure the approval of military aid, just as it is foolish to believe that the commission will rally national public opinion behind a new Marshal Plan for Latin America.

Henry Kissinger, whose appointment was received with skepticism in Washington's political circles, had said that he would do everything necessary to prevent Nicaragua's alleged assistance to the Salvadoran Guerrillas through an increase of covert operations against the Sandinist revolution and the United States' overt military presence. The author of the coup against the government of popular unity in Chile emphasized his approval of covert activities so long as, he said, we can conduct them as their name implies because, if they must be justified in a public debate, we will wind up losing public support.

The commission, formed by Democrats and Republicans and headed by Kissinger, was created just before the House of Representatives' secret debate on a bill designed to cut CIA funds for operations against Nicaragua. THE WASHINGTON POST aptly points out that this new Reagan maneuver reveals his desperation regarding Central America. The Pentagon substantiated this by announcing, with total disregard for the rights of the Central American nations, the sending of eight warships to the Pacific coasts of Central America.

The United States' interventionist and aggressive build-up, both ostentatious and dangerous to the region's peace, also includes large-scale military maneuvers in Honduras in August, with the participation of approximately 5,000 U.S. troops, naval exercises in the Caribbean Sea, and blockade and landing operations in the Panama Canal. Reagan's desperation, which THE WASHINGTON POST mentions, is caused by an inability to understand that the achievements and strength of the Sandinist people's revolution, which has just celebrated its fourth anniversary, as well as the advance of the guerrilla struggle in El Salvador, are rooted in the peoples' aspirations for independence, sovereignty, and democratic rights.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RECENT STATEMENTS CRITICIZED

FL221600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has announced that he wants to provide a 1984 supplementary economic and military aid package amounting to $400 million. THE WASHINGTON POST, reporting on the alleged good intentions of the Yankee President, added that the aid package was part of the U.S. administration's intensified efforts, quote, to rebuild, unquote, the region and stop the leftist uprising.

Far from responding positively to the demands of the international public to contribute to peace in Central America, ignoring the call for negotiations issued last Sunday by the Contadora Group presidents, and turning his back on Nicaraguan initiatives to promote detente, Mr Reagan announced no less than the increased arms race in the region by some 40 percent as he continues to prepare the path to war.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan rejected the Nicaraguan proposals included in the six-point plan of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. The Nicaraguan initiative was a valuable option for the opening of multilateral talks aimed at achieving a negotiated settlement of the Central American conflict; however, Reagan did not accept it.

At a White House news conference, the Yankee President not only rejected the Nicaraguan offer but announced that naval forces would soon encircle Nicaragua. U.S. warships will be in Nicaragua's Atlantic and Pacific waters to conduct military maneuvers, the White House resident indicated. In this way, Reagan confirmed the story which said that a naval force, similar to the one already on the way to Nicaragua's Pacific coast, may soon leave the Mediterranean to join the military maneuvers.

The U.S. President also defended the appointment of Henry Kissinger to head the commission created to outwit the mechanisms of the Congress, deceive the American people, and provide a free hand in developing aggressive policy against Central America.

Meanwhile, the U.S. media confirmed the expansion of the Central American military maneuvers ordered by Reagan. Pentagon plans include the deployment of personnel to Honduras, the presence of aircraft carriers in Central American waters, and the participation of the warship New Jersey in Panamanian waters. The aircraft carrier Ranger, with 70 aircraft aboard, left California accompanied by a fleet of 7 other warships to station itself near Puerto Colinto, the port out of which Nicaragua conducts practically all its foreign trade.

It was reported that two or three runways would be built in Honduras in 1 week to 10 days to guarantee the landing of C-5 Galaxy aircraft, the largest cargo planes of the Yankee Air Force.

CENTRAL AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES PRAISED

PA230215 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 22 Jul 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] For the past 4 years, the Central American countries have been caught up in a spiral of violence that has its origins in the miserable living conditions of its peoples.

The unjust distribution of wealth and the increasingly inhuman exploitation of workers and peasants have provoked such a state of rebellion that it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the national oligarchies and U.S. imperialism to control the mounting revolutionary struggles of the peoples in the nations that are subjected to dictatorial regimes.

More than 4 years of war and violence have taken at least 110,000 lives and left a toll of more than 200,000 wounded. International relief agencies estimate that nearly 1,100,000 Central Americans have been displaced from their homes due to repression and the miserable living conditions they have suffered. Some live in refugee camps located in neighboring countries; many others have been forced to emigrate to Europe and the United States.

El Salvador is one of the most eloquent examples of this situation. For more than 45 months the people there have been waging a heroic struggle to win their political and economic independence, which has been violated by all of its rulers with the complicity of the United States.

The list of dead and wounded increases every day due to the repressive actions by the Army and paramilitary groups. Ever since the Salvadoran people's struggle became a guerrilla war in 1979, the repression by officials there has been a state policy. It is thought that, to date, more than 42,000 people have died from this repression. The U.S. Government has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the smallest Central American nation, with the intention of increasing and modernizing the Army for its repressive plans.

The revolutionary struggle led by the FMLN has lately experienced a noticeable improvement in every aspect. Rebel columns control almost all the northeastern portion of El Salvador, and their harassment and sabotage actions are felt even in the capital.

This has led to desperate efforts by the U.S. Government to control the political-military situation by holding elections. If this fails, it will increase its intervention in that country, without discarding the possibility of a direct intervention by U.S. troops.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has requested from Congress the approval of $136 million that would be destined to increase even more the war arsenal of the Salvadoran Army. With the complicity of the Honduran regime, it is carrying out in that country an extensive counterinsurgency training course, with the participation of an estimated 4,000 Salvadoran soldiers and officers.

In Guatemala, repression is increasing in a similar way. The regime led by Efrain Rios Montt is responsible for the death of more than 20,000 civilians, as part of a scorched-earth policy that has provoked the emigration of some 40,000 Guatemalans, mainly Indians.

Even though the Guatemalan people's revolutionary struggle has not acquired the intensity of the one in El Salvador, the guerrilla forces organized in the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, are carrying out important armed actions that have caused hundreds of casualties to the Army.

These are the two Central American countries where the people's rebellion is felt with the greatest force, due to the unbearable conditions of oppression and misery among the people. Political observers agree that El Salvador and Guatemala are two nations of the Central American and Caribbean area that will follow on the path of the victorious revolutions of Nicaragua, Grenada, and Cuba.

HAVANA CITES REAGAN ON NICARAGUAN PROPOSAL

PA220239 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] In statements to the news media in Washington, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has rejected proposals from the Nicaraguan Government concerning multilateral negotiations to achieve a political solution to the Central American crisis.

Reagan reaffirmed his warmongering policy for that region and said he considers it extremely difficult to reach suitable agreement while the Sandinist government remains in power. The U.S. President asserted that the points included in the Nicaraguan peace proposal are not enough. In statements that some of the news media termed as shameless, he said that the good thing is what the "contras" want, that is, the counterrevolutionary groups that attack the Nicaraguan territory, supported by Washington.

Referring to the deployment of a U.S. war fleet in Caribbean waters, near the Central American coast, Reagan stressed that U.S. goals are not to establish a naval blockade against Nicaragua. Nevertheless, he admitted that his government includes this measure in its plans to oust the Sandinist revolution.

The U.S. Government had previously said that, in order to solve the Central American political crisis, it would accept only global -- not bipartite -- negotiations. Last Tuesday the Nicaraguan Government announced its decision to accept multilateral negotiations in order not to increase the regional crisis, and proposed a six-point program to solve Central American problems peacefully.

Once more the United States refuses to cooperate with the new negotiation formula political observers considered that this clearly demonstrates that Washington's only interest is to increase present tensions and provoke an open war in Central America.

CASTRO VOICES SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA GROUP

FL231100 Bridgetown CANA in English 0147 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Bogota, July 22, CANA-REUTER -- Cuban leader Fidel Castro has said Havana supports a negotiated settlement to restore peace in Central America. "Cuba can be counted on for negotiated solutions based on the principles of nonintervention, sovereign equality of the states, and cooperation for economic and social development," Castro said in a letter addressed to the presidents of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama.

The text of the letter was released tonight by President Belisario Betancur's office as the Colombian leader arrived in Venezuela to attend celebrations this weekend marking the birth of South American independence leader Simon Bolivar 200 years ago.

Castro said the search for concerted agreements to ensure regional peace had been a constant concern for Cuba over the last few years. He also praised a statement issued by the Contradora presidents after the summit last weekend. They recommended the withdrawal of all foreign troops and military bases from the troubled region, where Cuba has been accused by President Reagan of aggression against El Salvador and other states.

Castro said a decisive strengthening of political efforts was required to stave off the risk of armed confrontation in the region. He also praised the leftist Nicaraguan Government's acceptance of multilateral talks on its disputes with Honduras under the auspices of the Contadora Group.

Nicaragua had previously insisted on face-to-face talks with Honduras and the United States, accused by Managua of strangling the country economically and supporting right-wing exiles operating from bases in Honduras.

Castro said that Cuba could back any solution acceptable to Nicaragua, "to El Salvador's revolutionary forces, (and) to those who struggle in Central America to reach definitive national independence and democratic change."

ALARCON'S VIEWS ON U.S. MOVES, OTHER TOPICS

PA241920 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has said in a press conference in Havana that as long as the U.S. Government refuses to recognize the legitimacy of the Cuban revolution and Cuba's independence, sovereignty and integrity, it is impossible to consider an improvement in bilateral relations. He said that Cuba is not imposing conditions on the United States for a normalization of relations, but that a change in Washington's attitude toward our country is absolutely necessary.

Alarcon pointed out that the attitude taken by Ronald Reagan's government does not show any indication of a change favoring dialogue; on the contrary, it has reversed the process initiated with James Carter's government.

As evidence of Reagan's stubborn policy, the Cuban vice foreign minister cited Washington's opposition to a political solution to the Central American conflict, Reagan's threats of direct intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador and other acts that are directed not only against Nicaragua, but against all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Alarcon said that U.S. Government is responsible for the fact that the bilateral air piracy agreement has been rendered ineffective. He emphasized that our country, which was originally the victim of hijackings undertaken with Washington's complicity, has never encouraged them; on the contrary, it punishes hijackers severely. Alarcon said that, although the Cuban Government favors severe penalties against hijackers, courts of justice actually decide the punishment to be applied, depending on each case's specific circumstances.

Alarcon reiterated that our country supports, without reservations, both the Cancun Declaration and the Contadora Group's efforts to solve the problems afflicting Central America, which are a source of concern for all of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Cuban diplomat said that President Fidel Castro's message in this regard to the Colombian, Mexican, Panamanian, and Venezuelan presidents was not disclosed in Havana earlier as a gesture of courtesy toward those dignataries.

Alarcon spoke with numerous reporters who have come to Cuba to report on the ceremonies in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks, which will take place on Tuesday.

He stressed Cuba's willingness to contribute to any initiative in which Cuba's presence and action could be useful in the search for negotiated solutions to the Central American conflict.

Alarcon reiterated Cuba's solidarity with the Nicaraguan Government and with Central American revolutionary forces, describing the U.S. decision to deploy war vessels off Nicaragua's coasts, which is considered by some to be a U.S. naval blockade, as untimely and piratical. We hope that reason will prevail in Washington, Alarcon said, pointing out the wave of protests that the mere announcement of that provocation has unleashed in Latin America and throughout the world.

In another part of his news conference, Alarcon said that direct U.S. intervention in Central America would create a situation many times worse than Vietnam, which would inevitably culminate in a resounding defeat for the U.S. invaders.

He described recent agreements signed between Brazil and Suriname as positive. This he said in response to Brazilian reporters who have come to Cuba to report on the ceremonies celebrating the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Baracks. Alarcon said that these are agreements between two sovereign nations, adding that they were agreed upon at a time when some capitalist powers persist in denying Suriname's right to self-determination and in intervening in its domestic affairs.

Alarcon said in conclusion that any measure designed to support Suriname's efforts to achieve independence and sovereignty, as well as its economic development, should be praised by the Latin American and Caribbean community of nations.

Further Details

PA232316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2136 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] Havana, 23 Jul (EFE) -- Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon today confirmed the Cuban Government's "clear and unreserved" support for the Declaration of Cancun as a platform to start negotiations to avoid war in Central America.

Alarcon also said that in the answer sent by Fidel Castro to the Contadora Group presidents (Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia), Cuba expressed "its willingness to collaborate in the peace efforts."

The deputy foreign minister said during a press conference that there are many specific points in the Declaration of Cancun that "do not implicate or involve Cuba," and the only thing they have asked from that country is "solidarity and support" in the peace efforts.

He made it quite clear that Cuba will not stop its collaboration with Nicaragua, in the material sense, on the country's reconstruction and defense. However, he said that defense collaboration "has little importance" now, because the "Nicaraguans are a courageous people who do not require much foreign aid and have the ability to fight and win." He added: "Nicaragua has taken the necessary measures to strengthen its defenses. This is the right of every sovereign state, and it is the obligation of other states to support this."

Asked about the Cuban reaction to a U.S. naval blockade of Nicaragua, Alarcon answered: "We will not cross that bridge until we reach the river."

He explained that, from a standpoint of principle, Cuba will remain at Nicaragua's side under any circumstances, including aggression, "although the specific form of our support will depend on the actual circumstances."

The deputy foreign minister pointed out that this same question must be asked of other Latin American and European countries, because the consequences of armed aggression would affect "each and every world state."

Alarcon referred to the recent deployment of U.S. warships near Central America, warning that if the United States is intent on imposing a "policy of filibusterism and piracy" in the Caribbean, it will find "a multiplied Vietnam at its own door." "It will find a massive rejection of intervention. To ignore this would have catastrophic consequences," the Cuban deputy foreign minister said..

Ricardo Alarcon discarded normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States, because this implies mutual respect between two sovereign states, and the Reagan administration "is not willing to accept this." "The fundamental thing for normalized relations is that both parties' attitude be normal...Cuba does not try to tie this normalization to a change in the U.S. Government or in their foreign policy," the Cuban official added.

He also discarded the possibility of reaching a new agreement to fight air piracy, similar to the one signed by the two countries in 1973, which Cuba had to renounce because "in practice Washington was violating it repeatedly." He warned, however, that the crime of hijacking an airplane is "clearly, categorically, and conclusively punished by Cuban law."

Alarcon on Lawyers' Trial

PA232313 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2117 GMT 23 Jul 83

[By Colin McSeveny]

[Excerpt] Havana, 23 Jul (LATIN-REUTER) -- Cuba denied today that recent arrests of lawyers are related to their alleged defense of "counterrevolutionaries."

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said during a news conference that they were arrested for "violating the laws of the Constitution" and that their case had nothing to do with the trial of approximately 30 people charged by the communist authorities with conspiracy but who, according to human rights organizations, were trying to form a "solidarity-type" union.

Dissident sources said here and abroad that approximately 10 judges and lawyers, all of whom are state employees, were jailed for simply trying to warn world public opinion about the trials of "counterrevolutionaries."

Today's admission of the lawyers' arrest is the first official word on the matter, which has been the subject of comment among diplomats during the last few months. Alarcon provided no details about the trial which, according to diplomatic sources, has given rise to a schism within the government. Diplomats and human rights activists here and abroad have said that the lawyers' trial has been paralyzed since the suicide of Justice Minister Osvaldo Dorticos last month.

OFFICIALS REACT TO U.S. FLEET, KISSINGER POST

PA242311 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Domincan Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of Socialist International for Latin America, has said in Santo Domingo that the deployment of a U.S. war fleet to Central American coasts could endanger world peace. Pena Gomez, who is secretary general of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, explained that a direct U.S. intervention in Central America would generalize the conflict, which would not benefit President Ronald Reagan's reelection plans.

Rafael Alburquerque, the Dominican Liberation Party secretary general, reported in Santo Domingo that Henry Kissinger's appointment as head of the U.S. bipartisan commission on Central America proves Reagan's interventionist plans.

CUBA LODGES OFFICIAL PROTEST AGAINST RADIO

FL221436 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0330 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Domincan Republic -- The Cuban Government has sent an official note to the Dominican authorities denouncing the use of local radio station that operates on short wave to criticise and offend the Cuban regime. Local newpapers gave first page importance to the matter disclosed yesterday by the morning paper EL SOL, which provoked the first (?complete) direct comment from the president, Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco. The Dominican president said that a special commission has (?been) created to investigate the cuban claim and stressed that foreigners are not allowed to use Domincan communication facilities to carry out political activities against other governments.

Although the Cuban note signed by the Cuban communications minister said that the radio station has been (?reportedly) using secret broadcasting (?outlets), it was confirmed that the referred station is Radio Clarin, the same broadcasting facilities used by Radio Earth incorporated for the broadcast of the station's "The World Show" which is preceded by a program oriented to Cuba and Nicaragua. The World, however, is a totally independent nonpolitical or religious program directed to mass worldwide audiences. The (?World Show will begin) to pioneer on commercial short wave broadcast and hopefully will not be affected if Dominican authorities decide to take any steps against the airing of the programs denounced by the Cuban authorities.

Jorge Blanco 'Unaware' of Radio

FL211100 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] President Salvador Jorge Blanco said he had no knowledge that there was a clandestine radio station beaming broadcasts into Cuban territory from the Dominican Republic. I have no knowledge about that. I have received no reports along that line, President Jorge Blanco told reporters who questioned him regarding an article carried by a morning newspaper. The newspaper article reported that the Cuban Government had protested to the Domincan Government regarding the existence of a clandestine radio station which beams broadcasts exhorting the overthrow of the Cuban regime.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BIRD VISITS PRC, SEES BENEFITS IN CLOSE TIES

FL231645 Bridgetown CANA in English 1500 GMT 23 Jul 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, July 23, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda stands to benefit significantly from the establishment of close ties with the Peoples Republic of China, Prime Minister Vere Bird said last night. Speaking at a state banquet held in his honour in Peking, the Chinese capital, Bird said that China, as one of the world's oldest civilisations, has developed skills and technology appropriate to Third World nations, according to an official statement put out here. "We can show the world the benefit of cooperation by transferring the experience learned by China to the development problems of Antigua and Barbuda," Bird stated. The prime minister added that cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and China would be a significant contribution to the urgent need to strengthen relations among Third World countries.

He said that Antigua and Barbuda and China held similar views on several international issues. These include an abhorrence to the evil system of apartheid in South Africa and that country's illegal occupation of Namibia. Bird added that Antigua and Barbuda shared China's view that the Soviet Union should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, and the Vietnam should withdraw from neighbouring Kampuchea. An invitation was also extended to Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang to visit Antigua and Barbuda sometime in the near future.

GOVERNMENT DENIES LANDING PERMIT TO CUBAN PLANE

FL211846 Bridgetown CANA in English 1754 GMT 21 Jul 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, July 21, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda has rejected a request from Cuba to land an aircraft here, an official statement said. The Cuban Government had stated that the aircraft would be carrying students who had been on scholarships in Cuba. The Antigua and Barbuda Government said that it has a well known policy that scholarships from any source should be arranged through the government. It added that when such scholarships were arranged without the government's knowledge or involvement, the government was under no obligation to create facilities for those who accept such scholarships.

The government statement said that in the circumstances, it could not allow a Cuban plane carrying such persons to land at Coolidge International Airport. The request was made by the Cuban Foreign Ministry two weeks ago.